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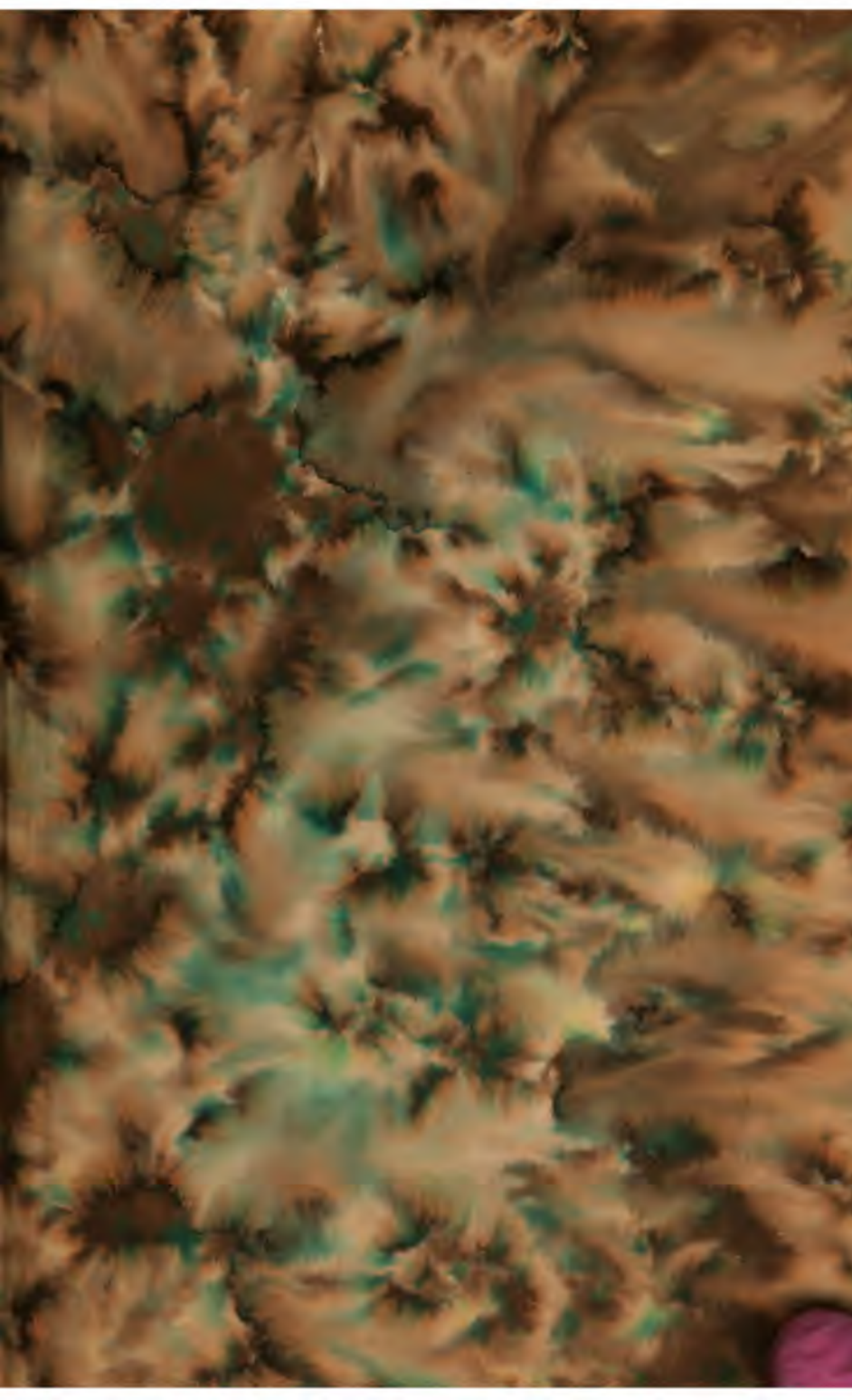

1. Ruegen – Descr. and trav.

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A TOUR

THROUGH THE

ISLAND OF RÜGEN,

IN THE BALTIC,

DURING THE YEAR 1805,

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS.

BY

TEMPORARY INHABITANT.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

LONDON:

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PREFACE.

THE island of Rügen, having in latter years attracted the attention and curiosity of strangers, though at no remote period, it was, even in Germany, considered almost as a *terra incognita*, it was natural to suppose, that various accounts would be given of it, each traveller viewing it from a different point, or under a difference of circumtances, by which his mind is biassed. The author of the following pages flatters himself that he will be found to have avoided the errors into which some of his predecessors have fallen, whose descriptions abound in inaccuracies, or are imperfect, especially those by Rellstab, and others. He trusts that the most minute attention to every accessible object worthy of notice, during a stay of several months on the island, and ocular demonstration, or application to the most respectable sources of intelligence,

will afford him that good opinion from his readers, which it has been so much his study to obtain.

Under this idea, he has annexed his strictures on the prevalence of mendicity, shipwrecks, strand-right, and vassalage, the forest department, damage occasioned by the wild stags, &c. &c.

The historical part, which was necessary in order to explain a number of material circumstances here related, is taken from Wackenroder, Schwartz, and Dahnert; and the statistical remarks have been selected from Gadebush and Pachelbel.

The author having thus spoken for himself, the editor thinks it proper to observe, that he has made choice of this tour, in consequence of the interest which is excited by the great political events now happening in the north of Europe. This island, though insignificant in itself, may soon become the theatre of very important transactions.

A TOUR

THROUGH THE

ISLAND OF RÜGEN.

GENERAL SURVEY OF THE ISLAND OF RÜGEN.

I SHALL premise these letters with a concise geographical sketch of the country, together with remarks on its natural history and statistics, from a persuasion, that by such means several passages in them will be easily understood, which otherwise might appear obscure.

As early as Tacitus we find mention made of the Rugians, as forming a family of the aboriginal Germans; and it is probable, that they inhabited the shores of the Baltic: but whether these people gave to the island the name of Rügen, or derived it thence, cannot be easily ascertained. Jordanes, the Goth, commonly called Jornandes, gives some account of the Rugians, and divides them into Ulm-Rügen and Ethel-Rügen. Whatever the annalists may relate of the actions of these people is subject to doubts, one copying the other's words. The name of Rügen first occurs in the writings of authors in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The most ancient northern authors make some mention of Reidgodlandes, bordering on Vintland, or Wendland; and Schwartz renders it highly probable, that by the word Reidgolande, is to be understood Rugenland. Helmold, the monk, who wrote in the twelfth century, describes it as an "*insula, quam incolunt Rani, qui et Rugiani vocantur.*" Saxo Grammaticus, his contemporary, in his account of the Danish-Rugian war, in 1168, generally terms the island Rugia. In the documents of latter times, it occurs under the names of Rugania, Ruye, Ruyen, and Ruyæ; hence the inscription on the seal of the ancient town of Garz. Sigillmer civitatis Gharz in Ruya; and to the present day, the term Roiyen is often heard in the Low German. In latter documents of government, it is always denominated the sea-girt country of Rügen, or principality of Rügen.

With respect to the situation of this isle in the Baltic, to the north of Germany, I shall just observe, that it extends from north-west to south-east, along the coast of Swedish Pomerania; its greatest distance from which (between Stresow and Griefswald Wieck), being upwards of fourteen miles over, and its smallest, about one and a quarter.

A single glance at the map will prove the singular figure of the country, which it may probably have owed to violent revolutions in nature; for the annals of Pomerania give an account of a dreadful hurricane which the country experienced about the beginning of the fourteenth century, and which is said to have occasioned numerous inundations and ravages, as well as to have opened the Neue Tief (or, New Deep).

An ancient tradition relates, that the peninsula Möuchgu was once connected with Pomerania, and with the islands in the Rügian Codden, formed an isthmus. This opinion, respecting the connections of these islands, is rendered still more probable by the sand-banks which, for miles, surround them. In the vicinity of the isle of Rügen are the following twelve smaller isles: Hiddensee, with Neu Busien; Ummany, with its four contiguous isles, Freesehort, Urkvitz, Lieps, and Wohreng, or Wührings; Oehe, Libitz, Pulitz, Vilm, Griefswald-Oehe, and the two Stubbers, or Sand-banks, namely, the Blind and the Bawenwater Stubber; which are also called the Small and Large Stubber: the smaller is denominated blind, being covered by water; whilst the other appears above the level. These last two, together with the Ruden and Dänholm, however, do not appertain to Rügen.

The greatest extent of this isle, i. e. from the north-east shore of the Wittows to Palmer Ort, on the Zudar, is upwards of thirty miles in length. Its width is very unequal: from the extremity of land in Drigge to Subbenkammer, it amounts to twenty-six miles; and from the isthmus Alt Bussien, in Hiddensee, to Thiessow, in Möuchgut, about twenty-three miles.

In consequence of the irregular form of these islands and their numerous creeks, their admeasurement has been attended with so many difficulties, that at last it was deemed necessary to measure each district and island singly. This took place at the beginning of the eighteenth century, or, more properly, between the years 1692 to 1702; when the surface of Rügen and its contiguous isles, according to Gadebusch, was found to amount to 140,548 acres and 219 perches; to which calculation M. Nernst has since added two acres. M. Zöllner, however, states it to be at upwards of sixteen German miles, which statement is doubtless the most correct.

* Fifteen German miles make a degree.—EDITOR.

NATURE OF THE SOIL.

The whole western district of Rügen is flat, but little elevated above the level of the sea; and consists of a mixture of loam and sand-stone; but the quarter around Gingst, and the isles of Ummany and Zudar, have a rich black soil. The eastern part of the isle rises, in several places, far above the level of the sea. The country gradually ascends, in every direction, toward the centre, where it forms the basis of a mountain, on which the town of Bergen is situated; and which exceeds, in height, all the other Rugian mountains, the summitts of Granitz and Jasmund excepted. This basis is connected with the Patzig, Jarnitz, and Ralswyck mountains, which branch off singly in a northern direction. Between Casnevitz and Putbus, the elevations are inconsiderable. Mönchgut abounds in mountains; but the highest are on Jalmund; particularly the north-east part, which terminates in the promontory of Stubbenkammer. Nor is the northern part of Hiddensee destitute of considerable elevations; while the Arkona soars majestically on the isle of Wittaw.

The plains of the interior chiefly consist of a soil composed of sand and loamy earth, highly favourable to agriculture, though several districts are very sandy: the ground near the seashore, towards the south, is mostly very light. The plains, which are higher up, and extend towards the north and east, are partly steril, and intersected by marshes and moor-grounds: the most considerable of the latter of which is called the Garvitz, or Garwisch; and extends from Silvitz and Cirkow to Posewald. The low country about Jasmund is mostly loamy, excepting a neck of sand extending along the shore near the ferry: the more elevated part is hard, and very stony. The basis of the Stubnitz consits of lime and chalk, covered by a layer of loam and vegetable mould. It is, however, natural to suppose, that this survey of the soil is only to be considered generally, for even in the sandy districts, pieces of rich earth may occasionally be found.

Though there are no rivers in Rügen, there is no want of springs and rivulets; the principal of which are the Taubenbach, or Durvenbeck, the Charow, Negas, and Scrow rivulets. There is, also, an abundance of smaller streams which spring up at the foot of the sand-hills, which are uncommonly pure and savoury. The mineral springs near Sagard, which had long been neglected, have again been resorted to since the year 1795.

The principal lakes are the Garz Sea, the Red Sea, the Knicpaw Sea, and the Black Sea; which are all in the interior. Nearer to the beach, where they disembogue themselves, are the

Ochse, the Rappien and Schmachter Seas; the last of which is found to contain salt. On Jasmund is the Borg, or Black Sea, in the Stubnitz. Exclusive of these there are several other standing waters in the excavations of the fields, to which the term of Soll is generally applied.

I have already observed, that several spots have occasionally been detached and washed away by the floods; whence a number of bays and creeks have been formed. The largest of these is the Rügian Bodden, or as it is simply called, the Bodden; it is an extensive basin, situated to the south-east, between Rügen and Pomerania; it forms several creeks at Mönchgut and Zudar; and its greatest width is between Stresow and Ludwigsburgh. That part of it which lies between Möuchgut and the island of Rügen, is called the Wester, or Neue Tief (the Western, or New Deep); and the part between this island and Usedom, the Alte Tief, or Old Deep: both of which are navigated by the larger merchant-vessels. On the west side of the island the sea runs up different parts of the country. Between Hiddensee and the Pomeranian promontory of Barhöft, it passes through a streight, called the Gellan, or Göllen, into the interior, separates Rügen from Pomerania, forms the creeks of Pribrow and Laudow, together with the Kubitz Lake, divides Ummany from Rügen, extends itself again between that island and Oehe into a bay; after which it proceeds through the canal near Hiddensee, where it again is converted into a large lake, between the Bug and Wittow; and finally, thence runs through the Libben, a streight between the Bug and Hiddensee. The passage by way of the Gellen, which was formerly navigable even for ships of considerable burden, is now almost choaked with sand, and has only from three to four fathoms in depth. In consequence of this obstruction mechanics are constantly at work in raising the sand; and loaded vessels passing through the Gellen pay a duty according to their tonnage. It afterwards forms, in a direction from north-west to south-east, a double lake, called the Jacmund Bodden. This double lake is from eleven to twelve miles in length, but so narrow, that it can only be navigated by yachts and schuyts; its greatest depth is estimated at from six to seven fathoms. The smaller Bodden commences from the Jatmund-ferry, runs as far as Prora, surrounds the island of Pulitz, and washes the shores of several smaller spots.

With respect to the climate of this island, it is natural to suppose, from its high northern latitude in Germany, and from its proximity to the sea, that it is severe; this is particularly felt on the western coast, at Hiddensee and Wittow. In the spring it is much exposed to the bleak and harrowing easterly winds and storms from the west, which are often suddenly succeeded by

hazy weather. Even the summer is unsettled, the weather frequently changing, and the evenings being cool. Sometimes it is very stormy, and seldom or never a perfect calm. A remarkable phenomenon occurs here previous to a storm, announcing the same; namely, the sea, however serene the atmosphere may be, gives an explosion so loud as to resemble distant thunder, which sound is heard throughout the country, especially on the mountains. The appearance of sea-gulls up the country is also considered as a prognostic of storms. The mildest evenings are in August; which month, as well as that of July, in general, compose the hottest season. It is, however, during the early part of autumn that the air is the purest and the weather most constant, where nature seems desirous to make some compensation for the spring; afterwards the west winds begin to rage, and great devastations are occasioned by the hurricanes. Towards the latter part of autumn, the fogs come on again, though even in summer a fog is frequently seen to rise on a sudden from the sea, and which covers the whole island like a thick smoke, after a couple of hours again disappearing. This phenomenon is called see-daack by the inhabitants. The winter is mostly severe, and of a long duration, so that the streights and bays are, more or less, covered with ice in April. If in summer, the sea-tide repeatedly rise high, the inhabitants of the coast prognosticate hence a severe winter. But, in other respects, the inhabitants appear to be pretty well enured to their climate.

It may naturally be inferred from the statement respecting the soil, that vegetation must in general be very productive; but a still stronger proof of it may be collected from the variety and exuberance of its vegetation: this is particularly instanced in the prolific culture of the different sorts of grain; so that the island may safely be considered as one of the most fruitful provinces of North Germany. The parts most adapted for agriculture are the whole western part of Rügen, the Zudar, the district of Rappien, Wittaw, and the lower part of Jasmund. Along the coast are a number of rich meadows; the eastern part is woody; and every quarter of the island is greeted by the smiling countenance of vegetable nature. Notwithstanding the cultivated state of the country, and industry of its inhabitants, there are still several heaths; and even Wittaw contains a small portion of uncultivated land on which corn might be raised. A barren heath, consisting of hills and vallies, and occasonally covered with underwood, extends itself to the north behind Bergen as far as Patzig and Ralswyck, along the bay of Jasmund. Independent of this, there are several other barren heaths; for instance, the one situated behind Kluksevitz, in the district of Ging, together with the extensive district between

Gademow and Boldewitz, which is connected on the one side with those of Parchtitz, Teessennitz, Lipsitz, and Ramitz; and on the other, partly with those of Muglitz and Maschenholz: this communication is, however, occasionally interrupted by the conversion of some of the best spots into corn land. Thus, in latter years, certain parts of the Boldewitz and Patzig heaths have, by a careful management and copious manure, been rendered capable of producing crops; after which they are suffered to remain fallow for a few years. In the district between Garz and Casnevitz, as well as in a part of Mönchgut, and in the mountainous and stony parts of the interior of Jasmund, where the summits are at the utmost covered with underwood, Nature has withheld her bountiful hand from the soil.

The isle of Rügen being destitute of rocks and ore, there are, consequently, very few scarce minerals. Of these, the principal are derived from the sea-shore, viz. yellow amber is found on Hiddensee, and chalk, in abundance, on the coast of Jasmund, in the middle of the peninsula, and at the farther extremity of Wittow. On the isle of Jasmund are two lime-kilns. Along the shore are occasonally found petrifactions and other productions of nature; likewise considerable quantities of quartz and granite-blocks, which are frequently of an immense size. The various stones dispersed, partly in heaps and partly singly, about the fields and heaths, and even in the forests; and which, in some spots, scarcely project above the surface, and are, in general, of an extraordinary size, are not less remarkable: they are frequently broken and employed in buildings. M. von Boustellen, in the second volume of his work above quoted, has described this phenomenon a shower of stones. Among the common minerals produced by almost every soil, are the China-earth on the isle of Hiddensee, which was formerly much in use; farther, clay, particularly potter's-clay, which was converted into bricks and tiles.

There are about 800 different species of wild and cultivated plants, which are indigenous, some of which are of the greatest importance in commerce. I shall first notice the trees and management of the forests.

The island of Rügen does not abound in forest-trees. The anterior part of it along the Gellan is almost destitute of them; Zudar alone contains some woody districts. In the quarter of Gingst there is also a great deficiency of this natural product; for the small wood behind Trent, together with the forests of Pansowitz and Laudon, are too inconsiderable to supply the whole neighbourhood. The most important forest district of the western part of the island, is that which belongs to the Boldewitz estate. Wittow, Hiddensee, Oehe, and Ummanz, are

very deficient of wood; nor are there any regular forests on Minchgut. The inhabitants of these districts are, in consequence, under the necessity of fetching their wood for fuel as well as for private use from distant quarters, and at a great expence; they would frequently, also, be greatly embarrassed, if nature had not furnished them with turf. The wood commences in the vicinity of Casnevitz, and, in different directions, extends itself partly to Putbus, Lanken, and Cirkow, partly to Ketelshagen, and Grelshagen, on the one side, as far as Kubbelkow, and Reischvitz, and on the other to Prora and Jasmund; though not in a manner so as to form a continued forest. These woods are frequently intersected by fields, meadows, and habitations; and in several parts consist of single patches; or in hills or hillocks, covered with trees. The most considerable forest-land in this revier is the Granitz, a mountainous district, belonging to the domain of Putbus; it consists of upwards of 2000 acres of land, from which the whole isle of Rügen and Minchgut are supplied with wood. Exclusive of these, there are also, in some parts, patches covered with underwood to be met with; for instance, to the north between Bergen and Ralswyck. In these, as well as in the larger forests, are held, at certain periods, annual auctions, when bushes, as well as single trees, are sold to the highest bidder. The wood to be disposed of is generally divided into small lots, and the purchaser is enabled to ascertain his quantity by the notches or marks indented on the corner logs; in some instances it is, however, bought by the load.

In the isle of Jasmund is the Stubnitz, a forest, situated on mountains and near the sea-coast, comprising about 3000 acres, adjoining the forests of Spieker and Lanker, and affording a supply of wood to the peninsulas of Jasmund and Wittow, as well as a part of the isle of Rügen.

The larger of these forests consists principally of beech and oak-trees, and the smaller of the ash, oak, elm, hazel, &c. The tough ash thrives uncommonly well in this country, and, on account of its utility, merits a more extensive cultivation than it has met with. A greater degree of attention should also be paid to the silver poplar, called Arbele, particularly as its growth prospers so well in a poor sandy soil. But the culture of the willow has proved still more eminently successful, because it is so well adapted for a severe climate and a meagre soil. Hence every species of the willow is met with in all parts of the island, particularly in and near to the villages, where they stand without order and singly, and sometimes forming rows and alleys: they are either suffered to grow up for the purpose of repelling storms, whence they are denominated storm willows;

in which case they attain a stately appearance, and are chiefly met with along the barns and outhouses as a defence against storms; or they are lopped for the purpose of forming hedges, or serving other domestic purposes. Here and there we find clusters of fir-trees, known in this island by the name of Tannenkämpe; but these are the only new plantations of forest-timber, and, on the whole, of no great consequence: at least, I doubt whether they produce timber fit for building, especially as large floats of the fir trunks are frequently imported from the Prussian territory.

On a general view, the management of the forests appears to me far inferior to the state of agriculture in Rügen. Though rangers and foresters are kept in the royal as well as in the private domains, still they appear to be merely inspectors over the forests already existing. Nor do I recollect having heard of any new plantations of forest-timber; but I know, that considerable patches of underwood have been rooted up for the purpose of promoting agriculture; and that from year to year even the larger forests became thinner: this is a lamentable truth, which, at a future period, will be severely felt by posterity. Vide Pachelbels Beiträgen, &c. pag. 131, where his remarks are highly applicable to Rügen, and merit serious attention.

The culture of fruit-trees is in a more improved state; and on several estates are raised the choicest species of fruit. In some of the districts of Putbus excellent kernel-fruit is produced. Raspberry and gooseberry bushes grow wild in different woods: there is also a sort of wild currant (*Ribes alpinum*, L.) known here by the name of schmärten, or schmargeln. Grapes are only grown, *par espalier*, against walls, with a southern aspect; but in some years they thrive uncommonly well.

I now proceed to a consideration of the state of agriculture, which forms one of the principal branches of their subsistence; and is attended to by them not only with assiduity, but also with great judgment. The country produces every sort of grain, especially wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas (white and grey) groats, and buck-wheat; and, in some places, lentils and millet. Of the first five kinds the annual exportation is very considerable. Independently of these, the inhabitants cultivate flax, hemp, tobacco, a certain small quantity of carraway and linseed, and a considerable quantity of potatoes. The culture of flax, however, has not succeeded equally in Rügen as in Pomerania; whether this proceeds from neglect, or whether the climate and soil be unfavourable to its growth, is unknown to me; hence a quantity of this article is annually imported from that province, and a considerable portion disposed of by the Westphalian linen manufacturers. The best flax is produced

in the isle of Ummanz, where particular attention is paid to its culture. In regard to the species of fodder, red and white trefoil are principally cultivated; and latterly, in consequence of the improvements introduced on several estates, letting them lie occasionally fallow; but with respect to the more tender species of trefoil, nothing more than some trials on a small scale has been attempted. Of the management of the soil and the different parts of husbandry, which, in several points, differ from the method practised in Mecklenburg and Pomerania, I shall treat separately.

In regard to the animal kingdom, most of the different species of tame quadrupeds are met with here; and, in fact, the cattle for draught and other domestic purposes, are indispensible to the agriculturist. The genuine native breed of horses, or farmers' horses, are but small, and by no means of a comely appearance; they are mostly of a dark colour; but very well adapted for work, and capable of undergoing great fatigue. On the larger estates the breed has been much improved by crossing with English, Mecklenburgh, and other stallions. The same plan has been adopted with respect to the native horned cattle, by means of foreign bulls: in short, this class of cattle has now attained such a degree of superiority to its former state, particularly by the establishments in the Dutch style, that the oxen are not only numerous in Rügen, but even frequently of a very excellent quality. Pigs are reared in great numbers, partly for sale, partly for domestic economy, and their breed is attended with the greatest success. The sheep are, on the whole, very indifferent, and considerable flocks are kept in those parts which abound with heaths; their wool, however, is very indifferent, and little attention is paid to ameliorate the breed, in consequence of the want of wool-manufacturies in the island. Of the wild land-animals, the stag, hare, and fox, are the most important. It is probable that, in ancient times, much game may have existed here; for in those days the princes of Rügen were styled "huntsmen of the empire." But at present it is the reverse; wild hogs and deer are not to be found at all; the wolves have long since been exterminated; and the hare is so closely pursued, that in consequence of the small divisions of the soil, where every owner is permitted to hunt and shoot them, they must at last be likewise annihilated; and, independently of this circumstance, the foxes, which are still numerous, eagerly feed on young hares. The stag is not hunted so much, the chace of this animal being farmed.

Of the sea-animals I shall mention the sea-dog, which, in spring and autumn, approaches the shore, and is there either shot or caught in a net. Dolphins are also occasionally taken

Among the tame birds, the geese merit a particular descrip-

tion, being reared in great numbers, and thriving to an uncommon degree in Pomerania. They are much larger in size than geese are in the south of Germany, where the people are misinformed as to the manner of fattening them here. They are smoked, and frequently exported under the name of *spickgänse*. There are also great quantities of wild fowl on the island, among which are various species of sea fowl, particularly swans, which are often met with here. Much injury is done at the time of sowing in spring by the astonishingly large flights of cranes. This bird has of late greatly increased in numbers; and the peasant spares him from a pious supposition that he brings happiness with him, without considering that he is the destroyer of their thatches and bees; the latter of which he devours, and the breed of which is not very much extended in this island. Crows, ravens, and daws, are perceived in immense flights at certain seasons of the year; and legions of lively sparrows, with their associates, the wrens, carry on their depredations in the fields or barns throughout the year. Of the other wild fowl, which are used for the table, I shall only name the different species of large and small snipes, the field-fare, goose,-duck, teale, partridge, quail, &c. &c.

Of the serpent kind, the most frequent are the brown and grey fleckled viper; there are also toads lizards, salamanders, and blind-worms.

Not only the sea-coast, but even the lakes, ponds, &c. abound in fish. The different species amount to from twenty to thirty, among which the trout and mackerel are the scarcest, and the herrings the most useful. The latter are, in particular, caught in considerable quantities, and sold partly fresh, in which case they are immediately consumed, or are salted and smoked. Hence the fisheries form a principal part of the support and the chief employ of many of the inhabitants of the coast. They fish either singly, or in parties; in the latter case they make use of a single large net, which they call " dat groote goorn." In the small lakes and ponds they fish with the rod; and the eel is often speared with an iron instrument resembling Neptune's trident, fastened to a large stick: this practice is particularly resorted to in winter by spearing them under the ice.

I now come to speak of the division of the isle of Rügen. Nature itself has divided it into the main country, and into the peninsulas and contiguous isle. The largest peninsulas are four in number, viz. Wittow, Jasmund, Möuchgut, and Zudar. The small neighbouring isles have already been noticed.

The Rügian Equestrian Order, which is a part of the states of the country, constitutes a separate district, viz. the Rügian district, which comprises the whole of the country. Hence the ground is, in this respect, divided into four gardens; namely,

that of Berg, Garz, Gingst, and Jasmund-Wittow; and the extent of each garden in general contains the compass of each prevostship: thus, the prevostship of Poseritz constitutes the garden of Garz. To each of these four gardens one of the nobility, possessed of a fief, is appointed a deputy. The present constitution has originated from the ancient princely jurisdictions, of which there once existed nine, and afterwards seven. The words gard, gord, and grad, are synonymous, of Sclavonian origin, and are used to the present moment here in the names of rugard, sagard, putgard, and schwantegord. Gard originally denoted a place surrounded by strong works, a fence, a division; and hence may have originated the term garden, which seems to be allied.

Respecting the spiritual constitution, Rügen forms a regular synod, consisting of twenty-seven churches, divided into four prevostships, here denominated prepositures, viz. that of Berg, Gingst, Poseritz, and Jasmund-Wittow. The first comprises seven, the second eight, the third eight, and the fourth four parish ministers; of whom two are resident at Wittów, and two at Jasmund. In the latter of these prepositures the senior minister always performs the office of prepositus.

In judicial respects, this island is divided into the bailiwick, embracing all the royal domains, over which a judiciary is appointed, who resides in Bergen, where he presides over the court held there. The district of the nobility contains all the fiefs and some freeholds; the proprietors of which are under the patrimonial jurisdiction. To the Stralsund commissariate, as it is termed, belong all estates and villages which belong to the city of Stralsund itself, as well as some freeholds, the property of the citizens or residents in Stralsund; from which reason the city exercises its jurisdiction over these to the present time. Formerly, according to the number of freeholds, a special justiciary was appointed by the city of Stralsund for the dispensation of justice, who resided on the island, near the old ford.

In a geographical point of view, Rügen contains two towns and two boroughs. The number of estates, villages, &c. amounts to 536, which may be thus classed: 100 large, 150 middling, and 86 small farms, together with 200 villages, Dutch settlements, &c. &c. Of these, 358 are situated on Rügen Proper; 89 on Jasmund; 48 on Wittow; 12 on Zudar; 10 on Ummanz; 9 on Möuchgut; 6 in Hiddensee; 1 on Oche; 1 on Pulitz; 1 on Libitz; and 1 on Vilm. Out of all these estates, 80 belong to the royal domains; 382 to the district of the nobility; 71 to the commissarate of Stralsund; 2 to Griefswald; and 1 to the church at Bergen. According to the pre-

positures in which they are situated, there are in Berg, 147; in Gingst, 132; in Poseritz, 120; and in Jasmund-Wittow, 137.

The towns are small, meanly built, and open; and many of the houses in the market-towns are still covered with straw. The estates are continually undergoing improvements, are now planned with more symmetry and beauty, so that we frequently meet with habitations built with elegance and taste. Before them, and forming a right angle with them, are generally some long barns, or other out-buildings, covered with straw, extending on each side in such a manner that these long side buildings appear almost like two wings of the dwelling; in consequence of which a considerable space is gained for the court and dung-yard. This style is as general as it is convenient; and at present the irregularities of a confined style of building are only traced in old or small estates. The seats of several members of the equsetrian order are distingnished for their beauty. But there are no castles in the isle of Rügen any more than there are heathen temples, whatever M. Rellstab may assert to the contrary.

The rural dwellings, generally called kathen, differ much from each other; the better sort are built as in Pomerania and Mecklenburgh; but some have a most wretched appearance, such as the chimnies composed of turf in Hiddensee. Upon the whole, they all consist of bays, which are filled and plaistered up with loamy stones, or with laths, coated with a composition of wet clay and straw: the walls are afterwards rendered more compact by a coating of wet loam, and are then white-washed. The foundation is now seldom laid with timber, but with stones; by which the houses gain in strength. In every village we find the roofs covered with straw, and occasionally with reed, which renders them more durable and warm. The roof is rendered more solid by a second layer of straw, and sometimes it is covered with tiles, especially in the roofs of barns. The kathen consist either of a separate building, or contain numerous divisions of apartments under the same roof: one of these divisions is called a histdh; and hence originates the saying, the kathen has one, two, three four histdhes, &c.

The population may be very nearly ascertained from the registers produced, if they are correct, which the clergy make of the number of their parishioners, as well as those which the burgomasters of the two cities annually transmit to the regency of Stralsund. According to these, the population in Rügen has of late years considerably increased. In the year 1803, the inhabitants amounted to 27,426 in number, of whom 16,732 are vassals.

By comparing this number of inhabitants with the extent of surface above-mentioned, it will be evident, that this island can-

not as yet be reckoned among the very populous parts of Germany, being only 1714 to a geographical square mile. A principal reason for this deficiency arises partly from the destruction of a number of considerable villages, consisting of farms, and their reduction into single farms, or farm-buildings, of the large estates; and partly from the still prevalent vassalage, the pressure of which must naturally be a check to the population.

It is a difficult matter to give an accurate description of the national character, the mode of living, customs and manners, as well as of the progress of religion and politics of a country; and whoever attempts to present a faithful detail of the various relations to each other amongst the different classes of people, has a still more arduous task to encounter, as he is apt to say either too little or too much. In the following remarks I shall endeavour to follow the middle path.

The inhabitants of Rügen, who are partly of German and partly of Vandalic origin, (among whom may probably be some descendents of the aboriginal Rügians) are divided into two classes, namely, free-born and vassals, but separated from each other by very slight boundaries.

Among the former are the nobles, and these possess the greater part of the island, and enjoy numerous prerogatives, privileges, and immunities. This class may be divided, according to the quality of their possessions, into the feudal and allodial nobility. The former form a particular corps, called the Rügen Equestrian Corps, who, like the Pomeranians, have, of late years, the right of wearing a peculiar uniform. This uniform consists of a dark-blue coat, with gold epaulets yellow breeches, and a sabre, with a gold tassel. Many of these noble families are of very ancient extraction, and their names are mentioned in the earliest annals of the country; but, by intermarriages, they are all now so closely united as to form one family. They are the descendents of the Saxon nobles, who, in the twelfth century, settled here under the princes of Rügen, by whom they were invited, and presented with estates and land as feoffment. Several families of these noble colonists have become extinct, and of latter years their estates have passed into the hands of others, either by purchase or by inheritance. On the whole, the nobility are rich, though not to that degree as they are in other countries. Ancient customs are not to be sought for in the higher classes, where a certain etiquette has polished off the ancient impression; and thus we find the manners and mode of life of the fine world copied by the nobility of Rügen. Here, as every where else, luxury keeps an equal pace with refinement; and, consequently, new fashions succeed each

other in their clothes, equipages, decorations of their apartments, furniture, &c. and in some houses the most elegant refinement prevails.

The nobles here have been accused of possessing an excess of family pride, and single instances may be brought forward to prove that they are apt to display to the other orders the superiority which they derive from the feudal system; but most of them are more humane than the German nobility in many parts of the continent; and among them are some who are eminent for their great qualities. Most of the young nobles now enter either the Swedish, or still more frequently the Prussian service, or apply themselves to agriculture.

The clergy have likewise to boast of enjoying numerous immunities and privileges. They are solely under the jurisdiction of the royal consistory, and are exempt from all civil burdens and taxes to government. Ten vicarages, viz. at Attenfähr, Altenkirche, Casnevitz, Gingst, Neuenkirche, Patzig, Parseritz, Rappien, Sagard, and Trent, have authority not only over the vassals, but also over the free people residing amongst them; and justice is distributed in the ecclesiastical or pastoral courts. But the supreme power in ecclesiastical affairs is vested in the king, who has confided the trust to the superintendant-general, to whom the deacons and vicars have to apply in matters relating to the church and synod. The four prepositi, whose duty it is to attend to the direction and inspection of the four vicars of their diocese, and of whom the Rügian clergy at Bergen, are the head, are appointed by the king, who also nominates the deacon at Bergen; the remaining deacons being determined by the prepositi.

The right of appointing vicars may with propriety be divided into grants of the king and of the nobility. The king is patron of sixteen vicarages, viz. three in the prepositure of Bergen, six in Gingst, five in Poseritz, and two in Jasmund-Wittow. The others are dependant on some of the nobility possessing estates here: the vicar of Ummanz alone excepted, who is under the patronage of the city of Stralsund; in the same manner the whole island also belongs to Holy Ghost Convent, in that city. In filling up vacancies, men, who are already in office, for instance, the military chaplain at Stralsund, are justly preferred for the purpose; and hence M. Zöllner has erroneously asserted, that the new vicar is expected to marry the widow or orphan daughter of his predecessor. To prove the contrary, I could easily name several ministers, were I not apprehensive of offending the modesty of several gentlemen, under whose roof I have enjoyed the kindest hospitality. If a clergyman die and leave a widow, she continues to receive the income of the liv-

ing during the term of one year; whence such period is termed the year of grace; after which she is entitled to a certain income and free apartments in the alms-house for life; and where there is no building of the kind, in such case a certain sum for rent is annually paid. These regulations are the more necessary, as there exists no fund for the widows of the clergy in this island. During the vacation, or year of grace, the clergy of the prepositure to which the deceased belonged, are bound to preach alternately in the orphan church, and perform the other sacred duties.

Most of the vicarages are very productive. The vicar has a farm of his own, to which a considerable portion of land for agriculture is frequently attached; and if the possessor be well versed in husbandry, his situation is attended with great advantages. A vicarage of this kind is called *Wiedemen, Wiedem,* or, according to the language of the common people, *Wüden,* which denotes Weihthum, or sacred property. The possessor is entitled to an unrestricted enjoyment of all appurtenances for life, but is, at the same time, bound to keep the buildings in a state of repair and habitable, for which purpose he receives from his parishioners, tythes of geese, and lambs. Independent of these and the customary salary, the clergy are allowed tythes of grain, which is delivered partly in sheafs, and partly ready threshed; by some, however, an equivalent is given in money in lieu of the corn in kind. If the church is poor, and requires repairs, the parishioners must defray the expences by contributions called a church-rate, and the amounts are settled in the house of the vicar, in presence of the patron and parishioners.

The clergy are some of the most accomplished men in Rügen; and several have eminently distinguished themselves in the republic of letters. They are refined in their manners, and hospitable to a high degree. Tolerant in articles of creed, they utter no anathema against such as differ from them in opinion, and thus, equally remote from the orthodoxy and infidelity of the present day, they form a truly amiable body.

The class of burghers chiefly consists of the inhabitants of the towns and hamlets, of landholders and farmers, sea-faring men, and tradesmen residing in the country. Among the tradesmen are reckoned the millers, who are a respectable community, there being upwards of eighty mills on the island: they have a chief, (this corporation and his deputy, the latter of whom, at the quarter sessions (two of which are annually held at Bergen) settles all petty disputes, and signs the indentures of apprentices, &c. No vassal can be articled as an apprentice to any trade. Great part, and probably, most of the class of citizens, are of a foreign origin; and others have purchased their freedom from

vassallage. Of this order, I can only add, that people in good circumstances and of a good education, in general, live here as in other parts, and that the poor are thrown into the back-ground.

The vassals *(homines glebæ adscripti)* are the most numerous of the inhabitants, the proportion to the freemen being, as two and three to one. Nature and soil afford a milder lot to this class, in which the last remains of the ancient Vandals may be traced, than the one which fate cast them: for, that their situation cannot prove enviable, is generally admitted.

They may be divided according to the quality of the estates, whose property they are, into subjects of the domains, or, as they are also called subjects of the crown, of feoffments, freeholds, the church, and of the towns; or, according to their possessions, and nature of their servitude, into full peasants, half-peasants, Kossates, or Käther, and inmates. Many of them are also employed as overseers, viz. as husbandmen, gardeners, husbandmen, herdsmen and shepherds, ferrymen, sailors, &c. or act on the estates in the capacity of male and female domestics. The peasants belonging to the domains or baliwicks, are mostly attached to rented farms, but of the peasants belonging to equestrian and allodial domains, very few are thus disposed of. The full and half peasant is bound to perform the customary work with horses, and manual labour on the estate, for which he has the possession and enjoyment of his farm, together with about thirty acres of land. The kossates and domestics work a certain number of days in the week for their owners. For those who were remiss in their duty or refractory, there formerly existed a particular mode of punishment called *gantenstrafe*, corresponding with that of the pillory in England; with this exception, that the hands of the offender were not confined: in this situation he was publicly exposed for the space of an hour; but latterly this punishment has been abolished. The other relations of the subject, his situation, privileges, need, &c. are ably treated of by M. Arnot, in his recent publication of the "History of Vassallage, in Pomerania and Rügen." to which book I refer the reader for farther information.

If a vassal belonging to a nobleman in town wishes to purchase his liberty, the ransom depends entirely on the will of his superior; but in the domanium a certain sum is fixed, man or woman; and a small charge is made for the filling up of the discharge.

I shall conclude the remarks on this head, by presenting a short general characteristic of the peasants of this island. The rustics, on the whole, are tall, robust, rendered hardy by their climate and manner of living, athletic, but rarely of a comely form, and mostly have thin legs, in consequence of their hard

labour. The physiognomy of the men is often very striking; and among the women I perceive but few fine faces and forms. All wear the hair cut short, and some have a curved brass comb in their hair, but no particular dress; the peasants of Mönchgut and Ummanz excepted. They speak low German, which contains a number of peculiar words and phrases, and pronounce it but slowly; they, in general also, have a propensity to tardiness; this, however, is rather a natural consequence of the climate. Most of them are, notwithstanding, industrious and laborious; they weave and knit for themselves; many even display great mechanical genius; and the labouring rustic in Rügen, daily performs, at least, twice as much labour as a peasant in Saxony; at the same time, he requires twice the quantity of food, and, unfortunately, the use of spirituous liquors has become very prevalent among this class. They are also very fond of smoaking tobacco, and many of them chew it in imitation of sea-faring people. Their understanding is much shackled: they obstinately adhere to the prejudices, tenets, and customs of their ancestors; and in matters relating to agriculture and many other subjects, they will still retain a degree of superstition far beyond that which prevails on the neighbouring continent: nor is their confidence in sympathetic miraculous cures on man and cattle, in the least diminished. And, indeed, how can it be expected otherwise? Their education is neglected in their youth, and checked either by poverty, or early and laborious work. There are also but few and indifferent schools; hence they never read any useful book for information, and but a small number of them are able to write. Notwithstanding these defects, heinous crimes are rarely committed here; murder is scarcely ever heard of, and great robberies are seldom committed; but petty thefts and frauds are frequently practised in respect to the property of their masters. They are secretly very interested for their private advantage, but mostly indifferent as to the benefit of their masters. Craft, ingratitude, indolence, and indifference in the exercise of their duty, are laid to their charge; and hence the adage in low German, "the rustic is naturally a rogue." Should this reproach prove to be founded, still it will, in my opinion, admit an excuse. For the pressure of servitude renders the mind cowardous and bad; that is, where no sensation of liberty animates man, and no conviction of his own importance elevates his soul, that man must become mean, because he is destitute of every thing that can lighten the fatigues of life, of every means that can cheer and elevate him above his fate.—Here I pause.—

I shall conclude these preliminary observations, with an account of some public institutions in the island of Rügen.

An Assurance Society against Fire, was established in the year

1769: it extends throughout the island, so that every proprietor of an estate may partake of its benefit. Since the year 1800, the two towns, and the market-places Gingst and Sagard (which were formerly, excluded from the advantages of this establishment) have been admitted. In the year 1803, the value of the houses registered amounted to 1,537,448 rix-dollars. The following is the object of this association, to which are appointed three directors; namely, one from the domanium, one from the equestrian order, and one from the Stralsund commissariate; and four commissaries nominated by the four gardens of the country. If an edifice assured is destroyed by fire, in such cases, three quarters of the estimated value are paid out to the sufferer; to which sum the other members are bound to contribute a share in proportion to the sum at which their own buildings are registered in the accounts. The money is delivered to the secretary of the society at Bergen.

A certain traveller is reported by M. Zöllner to have asserted, that there are no roads at all in the island of Rügen: this charge is not only harsh, but unjust. Though there are no gravelled roads or chaussees, still the roads are in general dry and level in summer, and even in spring and autumn, are less heavy in many parts of Pomerania, the ground here being sandy. Much attention is paid to their improvement; for which purpose a road surveyor is employed, who punishes every neglect in that department. The principal high road leading towards towns and market-places, are nearly all so broad, that the traveller may pass them without any hindrance and inconvenience, with the broadest carriage. The numerous roads for communication and bye-roads, running towards the villages and estates, are certainly narrower; and the most limited and worst are the hollow ways and passages through woods, as in the Stubnitz and Granitz. These defects, however, cannot be remedied; in fact, this very circumstance was adverted to by the government some years ago, when a new regulation was made respecting the general introduction of a greater width of the carriages; but Rügen could not partake of this advantage, because nature itself opposes such a regulation.

Formerly there were three main roads on the island. The first came from the large vitte at Wittow, and passed through Altekirche, Wieck, on the other side of the ferry, through Trent, Ganskevitz, Gingst, Rambien, towards the old ferry. The second also proceeded from the vitte of Wittow, through the Schabe, to Ruschvitz, Bobbien, through Sagard, Wostvitz, across the small Jasmund-heath, to Zarnitz, Carows, and to Rambien, &c. The third ran from Thiessow-farm, through Münchegudt, to Lanken, and through Carnevitz, to Rodenkirch-hill, where the three met;

and which, in general, still remain the same. The post-road, which is the broadest, now runs from the old ferry to Bergen.

There is only one post-office in Rügen, namely at Bergen, from which place the post departs twice a week, namely on Monday and Friday mornings, to Stralsund, and returns every Tuesday and Saturday afternoon. With these posts are connected the messengers on foot from Jasmünd and Wittow; the former of whom sets out for Bergen twice a week, and the latter once. The Gingst messenger proceeds twice a week to Bergen, &c. There is no messenger from Bergen to Garz; but one goes to Stralsund. By these messengers, letters are conveyed from town to town. Travellers may be accommodated with carriages at a moderate charge in every place.

Exclusive of these regulations by land, the traveller may also proceed by water to Stralsund, Greifswald, &c. and, by this mode of conveyance in small vessels, dispatch letters and packages from any part of Rügen, to the places above-mentioned. These vessels, or schuytes, mostly set out from Ralswyck, Kubitz, Schaprode, Putbus or Neuendorf, Wieck and Breeg; farther from Hiddensee, Ummanz, and Mönchgut to Pomerania. Large ships of burthen are not built in this island, because it carries on no immediate maritime commerce with other countries, nor do foreign ships land here, though they are sometimes wrecked on the coast of this island. This induces me to notice in this part the regulations made in cases of shipwrecks.

The beach towards the open sea (called the great strand, to distinguish it from that of the bays and creeks) is chiefly shallow and sandy, and, with certain winds, exposed to a tremendous surf. In addition to this, the strong currents of the Baltic, (which is but small when compared to other seas) allow the navigator no sea-room in storms, which often rage with great fury in spring and autumn: for, in whatever direction he is sailing, he may, with a moderate wind, reach either shore every twelve hours. Hence, scarcely any year elapses without some shipwrecks on the coast of Hiddensee, Wittows, Jasmund, or Mönchgut, though sometimes they wilfully run aground, when the ship and cargo are assured to a great amount.

In the most ancient times, a number of regulations have been issued for assisting the distressed crew, and preservation of the cargo. As soon as a ship hoists out a signal of distress, the inhabitants near the coast are to hasten to her assistance, and endeavour first to save the people on board, and their ship's materials and cargo. Whoever arrives first is entitled to the preference of salvage; but if any inhabitants belonging to the same jurisdiction in which the ship is wrecked, should arrive at the same time with strangers, in such case, the former have the pre-

ference; but no person is, under a heavy penalty, allowed to enforce his service, if the crew are alone able to save. The salvage is settled according to the Swedish sea-laws. If the articles saved are worth sixty rix-dollars, or less, the half is deducted for salvage; if it exceeds the sum above-mentioned, and amounts to 240 rix-dollars, then the fourth part is deducted for salvage. And if, notwithstanding, the value of the goods saved be greater than the sum above-mentioned, still no more than sixty rix-dollars are allowed, unless the exertions and danger were extraordinary. On the whole, equity is strongly recommended. The goods saved, must be taken care of by the magistrates, and lord of the manor, in whose jurisdiction the ship is wrecked; and for a moderate recompense, be brought to their own territory, after which, they are immediately to give information to the "Royal Licent-Contoirs for shipwrecks." Of late years a public authorised commissary has been appointed, whose duty it is to see, that in saving the goods, as well as in the public sale by auction of the cargo and ship's materials, (at which a sworn notary public takes down all the particulars in writing), every attention is paid to equity and justice. This regulation has taken place in consequence of certain abuses that were formerly stated to have taken place; whence several of those odious tales of the refusal of the peasants and fishermen to save the unfortunate crew, and all those stories of profligacy on these occasions; of their outrageous robberies and frauds, may possibly have some foundation. At least it is reported, that the inhabitants of the coast rejoice when a ship runs aground, because then they are sure to get something by it, and that they interpret the prayer of their clergy: "Heavens preserve the wreck," in the following manner: "the Lord grant plenty of shipwrecks." I had, however, to the honour of these people, rather believe the latter explanation to be calumny: for I know that the inhabitants of Wittows in particular, have, of late years, proved themselves not only most undaunted, but disinterested, and have frequently encountered the most tremendous hurricanes to preserve the lives of their brethren.

LETTER I.

GINGST, *July* 26th, 1806.

AT last I am here! Thus I see my dream realised, and my foot rests once more on this island, after an absence of twelve years. You will still recollect, with what enthusiasm I related to you whatever I could recollect of this *ultima Thule*, at the most northern point in Germany, respecting which a very accomplished lady once seriously asked me, if the language of the country was the Swedish, and if Rügen belonged to Germany?

I now hasten to give you, the details respecting this island, in the adventures of your friend here. In order to accompany me in my excursions, I must request you to take to hand the map of Swedish Pomerania, and Rügen, delineated by professor Mayer, and engraved by Lotter, in Augsburg. I doubt whether you will be able to procure the one by professor Lubin, first published in Holland, in twelve sheets, in 1618, and afterwards reprinted at Hamburgh, without any alteration, as it is very rarely met with even in the island.

At present I am at Gingst, where I am happily enjoying the most generous hospitality.

As soon as I had arranged my affairs at Stralsund, and confided my trunk to the care of the postillion of Bergen, I hastened to the old ferry, in order to proceed in a row-boat to Rügen; but the wind proving boisterous, the ferryman refused to hazard the passage. But in the harbour I learned, that a passage-boat belonging to Gahl, was just on the point of sailing. Of this opportunity I immediately availed myself, and joined the other passengers: my luggage was taken on board, the wind swelled the sails, and we boldly flew past Dänholm, a small island to the west, distinguished by its elevated shore. Numerous redoubts are met with in this island, owing to the wars in former times. According to tradition, the strait between Dänholm, which was once called Strela, and the coast of Pomerania, is reported to have been so narrow, in days of yore, that a bridge was thrown across from one shore to the other. In less than half an hour we passed through the gut, which is here about two miles and a half in width, and the beach of the island was now before us.

The ferry at Gahl, if you direct the eye towards Rügen, is situated to the right of the old ferry, and consists only of a few houses which belong to the church of St. Mary, at Stralsund. Near the beach here, is excellent spring-water, which many of the inhabitants of Stralsund use in summer for drinking, when their own water becomes bad. The ferry-boat at Gahl must carry sails, but is not permitted to use row-boats; while at the old ferry, only row-boats; but no vessels with sails can be employed. Independent of these two ferries just mentioned, are several others from Pomerania to Rügen: at Drigge, a small peninsula, which I perceived to the left of Gahl, the new ferry; that at Goldberg, which is opposite to the splendid estate called Niederhof, on the coast of Pomerania; and finally, the one at Glewitz, the last of which is the most resorted to. All the others are insignificant, and travellers will seldom have any occasion to repair thither for a passage. From Gahl, I then proceeded in company of a guide, who carried my little luggage to the old ferry, where I arrived in half an hour. The way thither led

along the shore, which at first is level, but gradually becomes more elevated: it consists of a yellow clay, strongly intermixed with sand; and at the village where the ferry is, its elevation is upwards of twenty feet above the sea. Here I easily procured a carriage, and proceeded to the interior.

About two miles from the ferry, is the village of Rambien. In the front of some of the houses belonging to the village, I perceived a number of young beauties (*Cytisus Laburnum Linn.*) which seem here to be rare. A fine grove of fir-trees extends from the inn here to the left along the road, at the end of which is an hospital called the Convent of St. Jürgen. This building is inhabited by old people who, on payment of a certain sum, are admitted, and receive a certain monthly income, and some provisions in kind. The establishment was formed in the fourteenth century, and belongs to the city of Stralsund. It was first founded by a man named Gädeke von Wikede. At present the admission-money is 200 rix-dollars; for which each resident is entitled to a habitation and piece of garden for life, and to thirty-two shillings Swedish per month. Close to the road is an old chapel, where the vicar of Rambien is said sometimes to perform the service; it also contains an apartment for conference: the windows were barricaded, and the branches of a vine ran up the wall on an espalier. At the back of this edifice are the dwellings of the Pröwens, as they are called. The whole is inclosed by palisades. This charitable establishment possesses several villages and farms on the island, together with the fir-grove before alluded to.

The best view of this sacellum is from a gentle ascent near Rothenkirche, a village belonging to the convent, where it appears to be before the grove, the dark green of which forms a charming contrast with the light colour of the building. Here the road branches off in two directions. Towards the right is the principal road leading to Bergen, which faintly appears at this distance; and to the left, through the village to Gingst. On my right hand, I distinguished the Gätemitzer bills, as they are termed, of which I counted nine. Wakenroder, an ancient native author, observes, that possibly a considerable number of pagan urns might be discovered here, which conjecture has since been verified, several having, in modern times, been dug out and examined.

A little farther on, a pleasing sea-view presents itself. Here the sea forms a bay, along which are scattered farms and villages; in the back-ground before me, was the Landow church, with its steeple; and to the left the bay was bordered by the Pomeranian cape of Borhöft, which rises at a distance, otherwise the surrounding country is quite level. If one may judge of the soil

by the crops, this must certainly be very good. The ground is lower on the left towards the coast, which is only at a short distance. Behind the farm called Drammdorf, is a considerable plain, which is used as a salt ley. Near Neuendorf we continued to approach the sea-coast, and at last, passed through a tolerably large bay, called the Priebra Wedde. The sea runs a little farther up the country, and joins the bay of Serow, or Negast, which is reported to arise from the Kniepow Sea.

Shortly after I perceived a second bay, similar in circumference and width to the one through which I had just passed, but superior to it in a perspective point of view. Contiguous to it is the small village of Landow; and to the left, behind a semicircle of trees, is an estate called Ralow, celebrated in the earliest history of the country. The ancient Ralow was a castle belonging to Ralunk, or Rolvink, a Vandalic pirate, and was destoyed by Jaronar I. prince of Rügen. A century ago the remains of the walls were still visible.

After passing through Landow, one of the smallest parishes in Rügen, we again had to ride through a bay at the back of the village, which is called Landow Wedde. As the word *wedde* occurs so frequently, I give you its interpretation along with it; wedde signifies a bay, or a part where the sea runs a considerable way up the country, or is so shallow, that you may ride through it on horseback, as well as in a carriage. It might, perhaps, be also derived from the ancient German verb *waden*, because such place is fordable.

In the middle of this bay, where the current is reported to be very strong, are driven into the ground two rows of piles, to serve as directing posts to the carriages passing through it. Though this contrivance is very laudable, and highly useful to strangers, especially at night-time, still it is unsafe, as those posts must frequently be carried away in storms, by the increased violence with which the sea rushes into such creeks, as well as by the drifted ice in winter, in which case the driver is obliged to take his chance. On the whole, a passage through these two creeks appears to me to be attended with too much danger to be undertaken by such as are unacquainted with its nature, especially when the swell rises, occasioned by a north-west wind. But independent of this circumstance, there is another point to be considered, namely, the penetration of the water into the carriage when the tide rises, by which the luggage is wetted. The passenger on foot fares still worse: though there is a small wooden bridge near Landow, where the wedde becomes narrower, how easily may this be washed away by a swell! At the Pribrow Wedde it is still worse. There are a few dwellings near the brink, the owners of which have a boat to convey passengers

across; but it sometimes happens, that the meadows adjoining the wedde are entirely inundated, so that the traveller is then obliged to wade to the spot where the boat is kept: should the people be absent, he must then wait till a carriage comes, with which he may gain a passage across. To obviate these inconveniences, it were to be wished that two solid bridges, able to resist the violence of the water, might be thrown over, in particular as the Gingst road is much frequented, unless local hinderances render their execution impracticable.

The country between Landow and Gingst, a distance of a league, consists of level ground; in the same manner as the whole western coast of the island, which is very little elevated above the sea. On all sides you perceive well-cultivated fields, and a number of estates and villages, through several of which I passed previous to my entry into Gingst.

As it was too dark when I arrived at this place, to take a view of it, I resigned myself to the enjoyment of social comforts; and indeed I cannot sufficiently describe, how every one endeavoured to entertain the strange visitor. The daughters of the provost, in whose house I was, proved themselves to be very accomplished ladies; and being all musical, they shortened the time by singing and playing alternately on the piano-forte and harp, till supper invited us from one banquet to another. After supper, the father, who was a native of Prussia, related to me some very remarkable incidents of his life, when he was a youth; and an occasional admixture of several interesting and witty anecdotes, added to the charms of the conversation.

My first walk, the next morning, was taken in company of the provost and his son, a worthy young gentleman, who assists his father as deacon. The exterior of the church certainly does not promise what a view of the interior displays: simplicity is here united with elegance; and you will rarely find a country church equally distinguished for light, cleanliness, and symmetry, as this is: which, however, is reported to be the most elegant in the country. Two of the more particular ornaments are, the altar, decorated with a painting of the Ascension of Christ, by Rode, the late Berlin artist; the other is the organ, built a few years ago, by Kindt, of Stralsund.

Among other property of the church, is a cup of exquisite workmanship, taken by an officer belonging to one of the noble families here, out of a convent in one of the wars, and presented to this church. A sheaf-barn, which is a small building contiguous to the church, and if we may judge from the name, was probably destined either to keep the tythe-corn in, or served as a vestry, has been fitted up as a school-room, in which the children of the place and its vicinity are instructed during the summer.

I now rambled through the place, which contains nothing farther remarkable, and has only the appearance of a large village. It is situated on an extensive plain, consists of rather more than a hundred houses, and is between ten and eleven miles distant from the Old Ferry. Some of the streets are defended by a paltry bank; and the houses are small, and covered with straw, three or four excepted, among which is the parsonage. The last, with its outhouses and garden, resembles a well-arranged country-seat, and the appearance of its exterior attests a spirit of regularity in its possessor. The grass-plat before the house, the lofty linden-trees which afford it shade, and whose fragrance hail it on all sides, the number of fruit-trees in the garden, the abundance of its vegetables for the kitchen, the high palisades aside it, with the neat bower near the pond, and the red railing by which it is surrounded; all combine to produce an emblem of useful activity, domestic affluence, hilarity, and rural peace. And indeed, this picture corresponds with the interior of the house. Here you find convenience and cleanliness, neatness without pomp, taste without affectation, order without pedantic restraint—all is harmony: in short, were I a minister, the possession of such a parsonage would undoubtedly form one of my most prominent wishes. The provostship of Gingst is reckoned to be one of the most productive preferments; for, exclusive of the advantages above-mentioned, there is attached to it a considerable portion of fertile land for agriculture, together with pasturage, and a piece of moor to dig turf, situated at the north-east side of the market-place. There are also several very fine seats belonging to the nobility, and various villages in this parish, amounting in the whole to forty in number. In short, this parish is the most populous in the country; and under the provost are eight clergymen.

The market-town, called Gingst, or Gynxst, as it is styled in ancient documents, has 540 inhabitants. These people were formerly serfs to the lordship and provostship, and some of them were bound to perform vassalage on the neighbouring demesne of Gagern; but several years ago they were exempted from this duty by the provost, as well as by the royal bailiwic, so that both have retained merely the jurisdiction over them. The high road which runs through the market-place, forms the boundary between the inhabitants belonging to the bailiwic, and those belonging to the provostship, the latter of which contains a far greater number of houses. This verifies the old adage, "that comfort may be enjoyed even under a yoke;" but since the abolition of vassalage, opulence has certainly increased. Four deputies are appointed by the baliwic and provostship, for the arrangement of petty matters: in which the interest of the place may be involved, to superintend the jurisdiction, &c.

When the inhabitants received their liberty, they, at the same time, thought themselves entitled to certain fields and other pieces of ground, which belong partly to the neighbouring estates, and partly to the provostship. This conceit, which has since proved a fruitful source of dispute, still continues to prevail in the minds of their posterity, who are always renewing those claims, and from year to year are in search of their asserted *El-Dorado*, though without finding it: for many of the inhabitants subsist entirely by agriculture. Notwithstanding the latter circumstance, the most common mechanics are found here, some of whom have formed themselves into guilds. Thus, by the patriotic exertions of the provost to increase the prosperity of the place, a body of weavers has been established, which already comprises seven masters. Some of these, particularly the damask-weavers, as they are termed, are in great repute, as ingenious workmen, throughout the island, and even in Pomerania; but are reported to be rather exorbitant in their charges for their labour. They manufacture the finest damask table-cloths, for which they are generally supplied with the yarn; and no pattern is to them too difficult to imitate: these table-cloths, however, cannot be manufactured of the same size as they are made in Saxony and Westphalia; but this is owing more to the smallness of the work-shops, in which two or three looms are close to each other, than to any inability of the workmen. In the afternoon, I and part of the family visited one of these manufactories, when a more accurate inspection of the loom and its mechanism, afforded me great pleasure.

My next excursion was to the Mühlenberg, at the west end of the place, which commands a perfect view of the surrounding country. It presents a continued tract of corn-fields bearing most exuberant crops. Clusters of estates and villages are every where dispersed; which, added to the neighbouring creeks, enliven the scene. At the verge of the horizon are perceived the towns Stralsund and Bergen, and particularly Jasmund and the island Hiddensee. This variety, however, is destitute of one of the principal charms in a landscape, which is wood, a defect which prevails throughout the whole district of Gingst: for the patch of firs at Rattilvitz is too inconsiderable, and the Pansewitz wood too remote. In consequence of the great fertility of this district, the epithet of Paradise has been not unjustly applied to it by Zöllner and others; the former of whom has erroneously asserted, that the country about Gingst, by way of preference, merits the name. Nor is he correct in his remarks on the attention paid by the owners to their grounds near the roads, and to those at a greater distance; as, from what I have been able to observe, his care is equally directed to all. Lastly, I inspected a Dutch mill, built only a few years ago, at the north part of the place. Its sails recalled to my memory

the mills belonging to the salt-works near Greifswald; at the same time it occurred to me that, according to some records, a salt-work is said to have once existed near Gingst, of which, however, no vestige is left.

On the third day of my stay here, a small company met at the parsonage, in order to set out thence on a rural excursion. My intention was originally to employ the mean time in a visit to the adjoining island of Ummanz; but, being assured by all present, that it contained nothing very remarkable, I joined the party in a walk to the Wall.

We passed through Venz, which has been, for several centuries, in the possession of the noble family of Platen, and the Gothic style of which proves it once to have been the seat of a knight. At a short distance from it, we perceived the wall, which was the object of our walk: it forms part of the estate of Teschvitz, near Gingst, from which it is about four miles distant. Here an ancient wall of earth is actually seen, which, on its top, and in different parts of both its sides, is overgrown with lofty ash-trees, oaks, hazel, and other underwood, which add to its majestic rise. The most elevated side is to the north, in which are incontestible traces of an entrance: a little farther towards the south, the side is again perforated by an aperture leading to the foot of the wall, which also bears the appearance of an entrance. The west side is the lowest, and appears to have been dismantled: here the wall gradually loses itself in a low bog covered with bushes. The prospect from the top, through the green envelopement, is delightful: here a broad foot-path is cut through the green bushes, and in some appropriate places benches are placed. Still unsatisfied, I hastened with some young men farther, in order to traverse the whole square, which is of a considerable extent, but of no very regular form; and is situated in a wide plain. I could not, however, discover any vestiges of a moat around it. The appearance of the whole was the more striking, as no mention had before been made to me of it; and I never could have expected to find here a spot so charming, and at the same time, not less remarkable as a monument of antiquity.

Of the former destination of this ancient work, nothing is known: but in all probability, there existed here, at the time of the Vandals, or even earlier, a castle belonging to robbers; for tradition relates, that a creek once ran to the foot of the wall, so that small craft could approach it. Nor is this improbable, if we consider the extreme shallowness of the marsh on the west side; and add to it the circumstance, that a creek runs from the sea at a short distance hence. Thus this wall may once have been a *wikingar*, as it was usually called, or den of thieves, if the tradition be founded on truth.

The interior space of the rampart was, if I am not mistaken, converted into a corn-field; and, in short, several fields and meadows belong to this wall. Formerly a farm is said to have been established here. A charming summer-house has been built here by the present proprietor, at the back part of the wall, in which we took tea and other refreshment. Thus favoured by the most charming weather, and animated by the spirit of mirth, the company indulged in the happiest enjoyments, till the evening warned us to return.

Shortly after I proceeded to Bergen, the capital of the country, where I took up my residence in the town-house, which affords the same accommodation as an inn; and have already made several little excursions about the town.

Bergen is about five miles from Gingst: the soil is level throughout, and fertile; on every side the eye is greeted with the prospect of smiling corn-fields, and land covered with trefoil, of farms, villages, thickets, and a number of mounds behind the ancient estate of Pansewitz. On the road between Bergen and Gingst, is the estate of the late M. de O. which, in certain respects, is highly interesting to me. This gentleman having brought hither a young man from Berlin, in whom he had accidentally discovered great talents for painting, the latter soon fulfilled the expectations of his liberal Mecænas, who continued to encourage the rising talent of the young artist, and retained him in his house for nearly two years. You will be surprised when I inform you, that this was Philip Hackert, who afterwards signalized himself so greatly, and ranks with the most celebrated landscape-painters: hence, the island of Rügen may justly boast of having, by its rural charms, unfolded his genius for painting, and initiated him in the first rudiments of the art.

Hackert has engraved several views in Rügen, among which is one of the town of Bergen, from Boldewitz. In a saloon of the house of Boldewitz, is an oil-painting of the celebrated Stubenkammer, but which he never finished.

From the windmill near Boldewitz, the country is one continued barren heath to Gademow: beyond this village, we again meet with traces of fertility, which extend to the ascent on which Bergen is situated.

LETTER II.

ACCOUNT OF THE ISLE OF OEHE.—SALINE MEADOWS.—TRADITION RESPECTING THE SEPARATION OF THE ISLAND FROM THE CONTINENT.—ORIGIN OF THE BEACON-HILL.—ACCOUNT OF HIDDENSEE.—THE CONVENT.—NUMBER OF INHABITANTS.—STATE OF VASSALAGE.—CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE.—TEMPLE AND IDOL.

LANKENSBURG IN WITTOW, *August* 4.

AS I was about to depart for Wittow, and thence for Hiddensee, I met with a pleasant companion, who persuaded me to proceed with him for the small isle of Oehe, whence I might easily obtain a conveyance to Hiddensee; to which I readily agreed. The road runs straight through Trent to Wittow. The ground is, on the whole, in an excellent state of cultivation, and produces wheat, rye, barley, oats, and peas: the land is level, and far and near, the eye is cheered with the sight of human dwellings. A short distance before Trent, however, we crossed a dull heath, on which was a solitary windmill. The village of Schaprode is situated close to the water-side, and is tolerably well built: it is inhabited by a number of free people, among whom are several opulent sea-faring men, who find no pleasure in the restraint of towns. The naturally dull appearance of the coast is much relieved by the continual passing and re-passing of the small craft. Schaprode trades with Stralsund, to which city schuyts are often dispatched.

Opposite to this village is the island of Oehe, which we reached by crossing a narrow but deep creek, in a kind of praam: the island is about three miles in circumference, and level; but on the west side, nature has raised a bulwark of large stones to keep the waves within bounds. In consequence of its low situation, it is particularly exposed to the storms in spring and autumn, which prevent the complete growth of fruit and other trees. At every part of the coast I met with saline meadows. In general, the soil is tolerably productive, but the harvest is very uncertain, in consequence of the severity of the winds.

On the following morning I got a new companion, a farmer, who was on the point of proceeding for Hiddensee, to attend the sale of some stranded goods: he offered me a place in his boat, which I gladly accepted,

There is an old chronicle still existing, which states that Hiddensee had formerly been united to Rügen; but that in a most dreadful hurricane, in the year 1304, or 1309, which occasioned the greatest devastations in other parts of the island, it had been disrupted; and the separation probably took place in this quarter. There is also a popular tradition respecting the origin of the island, but modesty forbids me to relate it.

On our arrival we met with a kind reception in the convent, where we found a number of people who had met on account of the auction, which was to take place on the following day. I went down to the shore to view the wreck, which I learnt was a new brigantine from Danzick, or Koningsberg, laden with wheat and linseed. The crew, who had saved themselves in their boat, were cheerfully engaged with the inhabitants in saving part of the cargo.

As the sale could not afford me any amusement, I proceeded in company with two gentlemen well acquainted with the ways, to ascend the Baakenberg or Beacon-hill, which is the highest on the whole island: it derives its name from a large barrel of pitch, fastened to a strong pole, which, in time of war, was formerly placed there, and set fire to on the approach of an enemy; but now it is no more resorted to. Not far from the convent is the village of Grieben, which is inhabited by a number of free farmers who, under the former proprietors of the island, were every day in the week obligated to work with their cart, horses, and two servants, on the estate of the owner: but the present holders of the estates have commuted it into a rent. Though their dwellings and outhouses have nothing remarkable to distinguish them, yet they were princely compared to those which I saw in the afternoon.

From Grieben we began to ascend the hill, and after pursuing a rough and meandering path for about half an hour, we gained the summit of the Baakenberg, and from this elevated point we enjoyed a most extensive view. Beneath us was the island, with its isthmus Ollen-Bessin, which affords pasture to the sheep in Grieben, and appeared like a narrow stripe of green ribband extended along the bay. Towards the east and south were the peninsulas Wittow and Jasmund; and still farther to the south, Rügen, with its numerous indentations, bays, hills, forests, corn-fields, steeples, and villages: but towards the north-west, the wide foaming sea.—What an expansive horizon! The wandering eye glanced across the swelling mass of water, till it at last found a resting-point at the verge of the horizon: this point was the Danish island Moen, which is situated seven (German) miles from this place; but the air was so uncommonly clear, that I could distinguish the clefts in the chalky shore.

I now descended to view the beach, which is naked and of a dismal appearance.'

In the afternoon we made an excursion to the adjacent villages, Vitte, Plagshagen, &c. There was a small assemblage of people in a meadow, on account of a sale of some linseed, which the women belonging to Vitte had fished up. These women had most eloquent tongues: some scolding, and others lamenting that so little money was offered. Though the men were silent, still I had an opportunity of observing an instance of their avarice. A parcel of the seed disposed of, was to be conveyed on board a schuyt, which was prevented approaching nearer to the coast by the shallowness of the water. The purchaser in consequence bargained with a Hiddensee fisherman, to take it in a boat to the schuyt, for a certain sum: the islander was first at a loss what to demand, but after having consulted one of his colleagues for a considerable time, he demanded a florin, (though the distance was at the utmost only fifty paces) adding, times were hard, and but little to earn!—Although Vitte is the largest and most populous village in the island, still their huts are so miserably constructed, that they can scarcely be equalled by the most wretched in the other parts of Europe. M. Zöllner justly observes, that architecture is here in its infancy.

Hiddensee, (or as M. Zöllner writes, Hiddenso) called by foreign navigators Dorebusch, is situated on the north-west coast of Rügen, which it appears to defend against the impetuosity of the Baltic: it extends in a direction from north to south, and is in length about twelve miles. Its width is very unequal, the greatest breadth being about two miles and a quarter, and the smallest nearly 300 paces. Nature has divided the island into two parts; the mountainous or northern, and the flat or southern district. The former rises considerably above the level of the sea, but the soil is mostly poor and sandy, except in the vicinity of the convent and near Grieben, where there is some good corn-land. The level country, which is nearly eighty miles in length, has most probably been added by the sea; the land consisting of sea-sand covered with short sod, but so low that it is frequently inundated: it contains very little, and but poor corn-land; but the meadows are of a far superior quality. Between Vitte and Neuendorf, is a rich piece of peat, which supplies the whole island with fuel, there being no wood whatever for the purpose; but the smell which it emits is intolerable, and all the insides of the cottages are covered with the smoke. The poorer class also burn cow-dung; but this is so far from correcting the smell, that the adage is truly verified: "the devil is here expelled by Beelzebub." But exclusive of its application as fuel, this peat serves them as bricks and building materials.

The Hof convent has a pleasant situation, and has lately been rebuilt. In the front is a square green spot, surrounded by cherry-trees, and opposite to this is a lodging-house, as it is termed, for visitors. It was established towards the end of the 13th century, by Wizlaf III. prince of Rügen, at the instigation of the abbot of the Cisterzienser convent, at Neuenkamp, who is said to have provided it with monks. The convent was dedicated to St. Nicolaus, the patron of mariners. In the year 1568, it was secularised, to the great sorrow of the monks, who, it appears, with great reluctance gave up the numerous silver utensils of the church. In the thirty years' war it was nearly demolished, so that its former extent can only be surmised from the few ruins which still remain.—The crop annually produced by the soil belonging to the convent, amounts, on the average, to five lasts of corn. Respecting its contribution towards the expences of the government of Rügen, it pays 7-24; and the farmers and Cossats must provide the other 17-24. I shall only add, that the convent, as well as the whole island, is an allodial estate, and was lately disposed of by M. de G. to a nobleman of Rügen.

The number of inhabitants in the island is upwards of 800, more than half of whom are males. The greater part of them are subject to vassalage, and even those whose turf-kathen (turf-huts) are their own property, have to pay a certain annual land-tax to the lord of the manor. Plogshazen and Neuendorf are inhabited by entirely free people, some of whom pay a certain annual sum for the use of the fields and meadows for their cattle, and for the privilege of searching for amber along the beach, and in spring, furnish a few pounds of salmon; but otherwise they are exempt from all the duties of vassalage. Vitte is chiefly inhabited by Cossats and Einlieger. The Käther must, if required, serve three days in the week on foot; but in general, only six or eight perform the duties of vassalage, the others paying an annual sum to be exempt. Still the latter must labour twelve days for the benefit of the estate, during the hay and corn harvest, and perform some other petty matters, such as plucking up the weeds from the flax-land, &c. But every Käther in Vitte is obligated in his turn to convey, for the benefit of the lord of the manor, his corn to Stralsund, in the bark belonging to the estate; and independent of this, he must carry a certain number of freights in his own boat, for which he receives but a few pence. Finally, the Einlieger, or lowest class of vassals, work two days in the week at the farm, or in lieu pay four rix-dollars. These people are bound to spin seven pounds of flax, but may purchase an exemption for twenty-eight shillings (Danish.) Some of the houses have, from time immemorial, been freed from this duty.—Respecting the ferry-men inhabiting the islands where

the ferries are, they are free from all servitude whatever, on payment of a certain sum annually to the lord of the manor.

Most of the inhabitants are tall and strong, of a sallow complexion, blue-eyed, with sandy-coloured hair; they are of a slender form, but slow in their movements and occupations, and are also accused of laziness and avarice. The dress of the men consists of a sailor's jacket, made of a striped stuff manufactured in the island, which also supplies the lower orders of the people with covering: their trowsers are of linen. In the summer they go mostly barefooted, or wear coarse heavy slippers with wooden soles. They are chiefly engaged in fishing; but many have acquired a considerable degree of opulence. The greater number of those who go to sea (a liberty for which the vassal must pay four rix-dollars per annum) are absent only in the summer, and amuse themselves in the villages during the winter, until their summer earning is spent, after which they seek for new engagements.

Most islanders feel a strong attachment to their own isle; but this is particularly the case with the inhabitants of Hiddensee; many of whom, after living a number of years in different parts, have been glad to return, and creep into their smoaky cabins.

I now returned to Wittow, and found Mr. S. the provost, at tea with his family, and a circle of friends; among whom was H———r, so well known by his dramatic and historical writings: I was charmed with the entertainment and interest of his discourse.

A few pictures by Matthieu and his friend Hackert, which hung in the parsonage, excited my attention; but particularly attracting was a collection of ancient engravings, by the two Hackerts. They are all landscapes, but the largest represents a view of Rome, executed in a masterly style. Another performance of the elder Hackert is, a large transparent moon-light piece, (which is generally known as a discovery made by this artist); it is inserted above the door of a saloon, and towards evening it was illuminated. However great the deception may be on the whole, still this is diminished by the lamp-light, which by its too glaring red, reflects on the Italian landscape, in every other respect beautiful. These paintings, as well as the collection of engravings, were presented from Naples to the lady of the provost, a near relation of M. von O. who first roused the genius of this artist.

On the following morning I made a short excursion to Lankensburg, a noble seat belonging to M. von L. where I spent two very agreeable days in the company of my worthy A. who boards in the house. In the afternoon he accompanied me to inspect the grave of one of the Huns, situated on a heath between the

farms Nunevitzt and Schwarbe, and built of stones. We next proceeded for the celebrated Arkona. The whole of the road to the village of Putgard, which is the last on the northern side of the country, led along a continued plain through the most luxuriant corn-fields; but scarcely had we quitted the village when the country began to rise, the corn-fields by degrees to vanish, and the green woody hillocks of the cape, together with a part of its chalky cliffs, ascend in the back ground. Within a quarter of an hour, which was rendered longer by my impatience, the carriage stopped, and we alighted at a pasturage. I hastily ascended, and leant against the fire-beacon, to rest on the summit of this northern cape; but who could think of resting in a place where every object around invites the eye to enjoyment? One of the greatest objects here was the view of the Baltic, which had assumed the colour of the grey sky, and embraced the half of the horizon towards the north. On the right hand were the elevated shores of Jasmund covered with wood; on the left hand the highlands of Hiddensee, with the island of Moen at a distance; and then the prospect of the interior across Wittow and Rügen; what a glorious spectacle! We now descended, and took a survey of the two shores, of which that to the right is the most interesting.

Respecting the former sea-port town of Arkona, the temple and idol of Suantevit and its destruction, I must refer you to Zöllner and Nernst, who have skifully collected the materials for the history of this place, from the more ancient historians. I shall only make one observation, that Arkona* is generally called Uhrtkona, Ollkona, and Akona, by the common people in the isle of Wittow; among whom they have a tradition that, at the top of the plain around the rampart, where at present a naked heath is seen, several centuries ago, a forest of lofty beech-trees extended along the shore. Towards evening we quitted Arkona with a loud farewell, which resounded from the walls of its sublime dome, and departed from Putgard by way of Presenzke, through Altenkirchen to Lankensburg.

LETTER III.

EXCURSION TO ALTENKIRCHEN.—VILLAGES, NUMBER OF INHABITANTS, CURIOSITIES, &c.

BERGEN, 10th *August*.

ON the following morning I undertook an excursion to Altenkirchen, which is only two or three hundred paces from Lan-

* Whether the name Arkona has any affinity to the Italian Ancona, I must leave to the antiquarians to decide.

kensburg, through a strait alley beset with young Italian or Canadian poplars: my intention was to pay a visit to Dr. Rosegarten. A tall man, of a middle age, pale countenance, with a dark piercing eye, and dark hair cut short, gave me so cheerful a welcome, that on approaching him my heart felt lighter. The affability of his conduct, together with his animated and social discourse, banished the little remains of timidity which I had brought with me from Lankensburg. He speaks very fast, but with energy, and his diction is elegant; his exterior displays the geniality of his mind, which owes a great part of its cultivation to its own powers. His study is naturally the seat of elegance and neatness; and is well provided with a choice collection of books on all branches of literature, of ancient and modern nations. He formerly played the flute, but a weakness in the chest compelled him to abandon it; and in his sitting-room I found both a harp and piano-forte; for the latter instrument he had composed many of his own songs. As a true admirer of the plastic arts, he possesses a very valuable treasure in drawings and engravings; some of which serve to decorate his apartments, while the larger and more scarce prints are made up in folios. Among the engravings are several after Raphael, which occupy the first place; next to these are some other excellent productions of the art, by Germans and foreigners; for instance, the principal sheets of the Chaleographic Society in Dessau, the best landscape pieces by Hackert, the celebrated "Last Supper" by Morghen, a number of portraits by Lifts, Bause, &c. with several productions of English artists, &c. Independent of these, are a couple of engravings by Piranesi, representing Hercules and the group of Cupid and Psyche, in which the touch is bold and harmonious. Besides these, is a neat collection of small engravings and vignettes, taken from the German *belles lettres*. Among the designs are three or four, which are executed with spirit and industry: they are views from Arkona and Stubbenkammer, by a young artist named Friederichs.

Though M. Kosegarten is a native of Mecklenburgh, still he is so decidedly attached to the island of Rügen, that he has remained twelve years resident there. He has the general character of being an assiduous author, a kind father, a disinterested friend, an upright spiritual pastor to his congregation, and charitable to the extreme. Hence he merits his living, which is considered as the most productive in the whole island.

Altenkirchen is a neatly-built village, cotaining about fifty houses, mostly thatched with straw, and 250 inhabitants. The country about Altenkirchen is level, without any variation to relieve the eye, the only green bush being a small patch to the

south of the place, which is covered with a few wild pear-trees and thorn-bushes. In short, all Wittow is one continued plain, which in summer may appear enlivened by the luxuriant growth of undulating corn, but in autumn and toward Lent, the unploughed and fallow land gives it a truly melancholy appearance.

The peninsula of Wittow is the north-east part of Rügen: it is about eleven miles in length, and at the utmost six miles and a half in width, and upwards of twenty-two miles in circumference. It extends from south-west to north-east, and though sufficiently elevated above the level of the sea, still the country is a perfect plain as far as Arkona, where it begins to rise: it branches off into two long arms, one of which is called the small Wittow-heath; the other is called the Bug, from the extremity of which the post-office packets occasionally proceed for Sweden. There is a great want of pasturage and meadows; but latterly some of the owners of the estates have begun to cultivate trefoil, &c. In respect to wood, of which there is also a great deficiency, the general complaint is, that the severity of the climate frustrates all attempts to establish a plantation; and even the farmers, who in their leases engage to plant a certain number of trees on their farms, prefer paying the penalty attached to the omission of this regulation.. But to be convinced of the contrary, one need only take a survey of Altenkirchen, Sulinsruhe, Lanken, &c. and their vicinity, where the ash, willow, and several fruit-trees thrive considerably. A still more important reason for this inattention to plantations of trees is, the great advantages derived from the different species of grain, especially rye, of which the produce is in some years so great, that they actually export upwards of 1000 lasts per annum.

The whole country contains about 3000 inhabitants, among whom the vassals are in proportion to to the free people, as 100 to 1. The former are subject to the customary services of vassalage; the young men, however, frequently obtain permission of the owners of the estates to which they belong, to go to sea; in this they are generally encouraged by the example of their friends, by the fishery and coasting trade. Though I could not observe any striking peculiarity among the country people, still I must add, that the increased intercourse with each other, the journies to the towns, the proximity to Jasmund, the family connections with Rügen, the friendly visits, &c. &c. have all contributed to render the manners of these people softer than those of their neighbours in Hiddensee.

After passing through the villages of Neuenkirchen and Rappien, I arrived at the Banselvitzer hills. Immediately on leaving the village of Great Banselvitz, the ground begins to ascend; and on a sudden I found myself on the brink of a beach. Across

the water before me lay extended, like an amphitheatre, Jasmund, with its fields and forests, which, stretching in a direction to the north-west, and uniting with the promontory, seemed to form a continuation of a chain of hills, at the extremity of which the seat named Tetzitz, rose above the summit of a forest of fir-trees. But towards the west, the prospect was still more luxuriant; or rather, it appeared to be boundless: at least the imagination could have extended it ad infinitum, as the sun so strongly illumined the landscape, that the eye became dazzled, and the back ground was lost in the retiring mist.

On the road to Bergen a new curiosity attracted my attention. A number of conical grave-mounds, resembling so many bells, appeared to obstruct the way to Patziz. But as I approached them, they were parted off on each side, and left me a free passage between them: they were eighteen in number, eight of which were on the left, and ten on the right side, but without ordor. Some were bare, and only covered with short sod and juniper, or blackberry-bushes, &c. The first on the right-hand is of a most singular shape, resembling a cone, cut smooth on every side, and at the top of which myriads of swallows have taken up their residence: the last on the right hand is nearly levelled to the ground, and appears like an invalid among his brethren. Of two of the most considerable I took the dimensions: the circumference of the larger amounted to 112 paces at the foot; that of the smaller, to 106 paces; and the perpendicular height of the tallest I estimated at from sixteen to twenty feet. Though at first I felt inclined to consider this phenomenon as a lusus naturæ, reflexion and experience, however, convinced me that such tumuli could never be of that description. They are called the Wohrker-hills, from the neighbouring village Wohrke.

LETTER IV.

ACCOUNT OF THE RUGARD.—REMARKS ON THE ANCIENT PRINCES OF RUGEN, &c.

BERGEN, *August* 18.

MY time here is chiefly spent in visiting-parties, or making short excursions to examine the beauties of nature; but no spot has attraction equal to the Rugard.

This grand object, on which nature has lavished her brightest charms, is the highest hill in Rügen-Proper; and being situated in the centre of the island, it is impossible to find a better spot to view the peculiar charms with which the island is gifted. You find yourself here surrounded with an indescribable variety of objects; their connection with each other, their divisions and sections by the sea, their perspective sites and distances—all inces-

santly charm the eye, without satiating it. The Rugard rests on an ascent, which forms its foot, on the north-east side of the town, from which it is separated but a few hundred paces. The best way to ascend it is from Raddas, because from that side the surprise is the greater. It is also advisable to visit it repeatedly, and at different parts of the day; partly on account of the variegated reflexions, and partly in order to become more intimate with its beauties: for it would be impossible at one view to embrace the enchanting change of groups of landscapes! To attempt a description with words, would be in vain: it must be the pencil of a master that can give you an idea of this *. Were it not for the numerous diminutive objects, a painting of it would, in my opinion, be one of the most interesting subjects for a panorama.

In fact, the ancient princes of Rügen could not have selected a more delightful spot for their residence than the summit of this mountain, which commands a view over the whole island. There stood here formerly, the castle Rugard, or Rügigard, from which the hill has derived its name: at present it is vulgarly called Rügord; it was built by prince Jaromar I. but now there is not the least vestige of it to be perceived, the ground being covered with corn. From certain appearances, however, it must have been very considerable.

Sometimes I extend my rambles beyond the Rugard, especially towards the south: nature is here wild, and yet pleasant, the heights being overgrown with moss, and bushes, or naked and covered with stones. On one of these hills I discovered a stone-chest, as it is termed; but it was very small, and in a bad state of preservation: the bottom had given way, and the stone which covered it, about two yards in length and one in height, lay in an oblique direction over it. Close to it I also found another grave of a Hun, which was only twenty-five paces long, and ten broad, but encircled with stones, juniper, &c. Not far from it is a conic grave-mound on a rising ground, of which it forms the summit. The prospect of all these hillocks, and the parts contiguous, is not less attractive than the objects from the Rugard; and though the landscape is less beautiful, we have still the advantage here, that our eye is, on account of the more limited space, better able to collect and retain the objects with more accuracy.

I have just returned from a visit to Pulitz, which is one of the most romantic spots imaginable. Its solitary and isolated situ-

* Luxuriance of masses and forms, the infinite modifications, the variegated intermixture and connection of the single parts, which the most lively imagination and exquisite genius of the artist could not have more happily arranged, render the view beyond description beautiful.

ation, surrounded by verdant inclosures, its green pyramidal form resting on a silver mirror, captivates the eye even at a distance. There are two ways to it; the one by water, the other mostly by land, but occasionally by water. I preferred the latter.

As soon as I landed on the island, I ascended the hill with some difficulty, but in a short time arrived at the summit, which is one of the most interesting spots on the island. To the west I saw Stedar, in the vicinity of a clear lake, with its dark background of heath, hills, &c.; to the north, were Jasmund and Thiessaw, contiguous to the sea; to the east, the island of Prora, and some detached pieces of the woody granite; and to the south, the Tannenberg, near Putlins. These are the limits of a landscape, on which Nature has spread her engaging charms.

Pulitz extends itself in a direction from south to north, in the bay of Jasmund: it is about a league in circumference. Nature has divided this island into three parts; one of which is high and mountainous, and on the one side inclosed by a forest of fir-trees, &c.; the middle of the island is level, and in some parts the ground is rising, which is employed for the culture of corn, though the corn did not appear to be in a very luxuriant state; the third part is inclosed by a forest of fir-trees, as the first. This is a sketch of this little island, which I reckon among the greatest beauties that Rügen has to produce. To me it appears to be the most charming asylum to which a person seeking retirement could retreat.

LETTER V.

BERGEN, *August* 30.

MY joy is now complete. I have seen the picturesque peninsula of Jasmund, and the celebrated Stubbenkammer, at first my sole motive for undertaking the journey.

I set out from Bergen by water, in company with a small party who were going to Sagard. The first village at which we stopped was Strussendorf, the soil of which appeared to be very meagre and sandy; but beyond it the landscape becomes more agreeable and variegated. We next took a distant survey of Ralswieck (a beautiful estate most delightfully situated,) and of the surrounding country. Before us was Jasmund, and to the right the neighbouring estate of Jarnitz, with its stately verdant limits, &c.

We now arrived at the ferry, which, in about a quarter of an hour, conveyed us to Jasmund. Our entry into this part of the

country was far from being agreeable; but on approaching towards Sagard, the road leads through a plain covered with corn, and on every side I noticed pieces of water, heights, mills, rural cottages, &c.

Having observed a hill near Sagard, which appeared to me remarkable, I paid it a visit in the evening: it is situated in the middle of a field, and in shape resembling the conic Wohrker grave-mounds before described; in short, it is the grave of a Vandal. The inhabitants call it Dubberworth. I measured its circumference, and found it to consist of 170 paces; its height I estimated at 32 feet.

The country-people of Jasmund relate the following tale respecting the origin of the Dubberworth:—They assert, that in time immemorial, an immense giantess lived in Jasmund, to whom the country was subject. Having tendered her hand to the prince of Rügen, who, however, declined the *great* honour, she immediately resolved to compel him to marry her by force of arms. Now, in order to convey her army with expedition and safety to Jasmund, she hit upon the idea of filling up the bay of Jasmund with sand. But the first attempt proved so unsuccessful, that she gave up the plan of blocking up the passage: for, at Sagard, they say, the apron or sack, which she carried, got a rend, through which a large stream of sand escaped, and formed the Dubberworth.—They add, that she had scarcely dragged her burthen to the Litzow ferry, when the whole apron was completely torn, and the sand heaped up into those hills which I before mentioned.

Early the next morning we set out from Sagard by water, towards Sassenitz, but turned off from the straight road through a wood, in order to inspect a grave said to be the largest in Jasmund: this is, however, not the fact, it being only thirty-six paces in length: the dark-grey stones, however, with which it is encompassed, are considerably larger than the one on Strussmannsdorf-heath; and particularly striking is the corner-stone at the foot of the grave, being upwards of eight feet in length. In other respects the grave is, towards the middle, excavated like a tray, and the stones are, on the south side, in the best state of preservation.

Our way lay through the wood, the cooling shade of which greatly refreshed us. One spot in particular invited my attention, where a rivulet gently murmured over the smooth pebbles, and gradually winding itself between the trunks of trees, at last formed a cataract, which rushed aloud towards the shore: it is called the Tribberbach. Among the stones at the edge of it was one of an extraordinary size, in the shape of an oven, and

Specimen of a Country House, at Rugen.

covered with fresh moss: its height I estimated at from twelve to sixteen feet.

After passing through Krampaz, we were almost overcome by the piercing heat of the sun, till we arrived at Sassenitz, which has a very romantic situation near the sea. Here we soon obtained a vessel to convey us to the Stubbenkammer.

Immediately beyond Sassenitz the cliffs become chalky, and assume myriads of shapes and forms, affording a grand scope for a playful imagination: in short, the interest of the passage is still more increased by the numerous small projections of the shore, which in succession surprise the eye with new objects.

The chief topic in the boat related to the Stubbenkammer, and soon passed on to the two famous pirates, Clas Störtebecker and Michael Gädike. The latter is reported to have been a vassal belonging to the estate of Ruschvitz, in Jasmund; and the former to have been born in Pomerania. After having deserted their service, they by degrees became the commanders in chief of a powerful band of robbers, who, in the fourteenth century, under the name of Vitalien brethren, and Lynkendeeler, were a terror to the peaceable navigator. These rangers of the Baltic are stated to have had their booty stored up in a cave of the Stubbenkammer, which I shall soon further notice: they were, however, pursued and dispersed by the Hanse towns; Störtebecker and Gädike were made prisoners near Heligoland, and executed near Hamburg, in the year 1402.

At last we reached the object of our curiosity, where Nature has united all her powers to complete her gigantic works, and form the boldest and most astonishing piles. Unwieldly masses are here scattered in all directions, and the shore is rent into chasms, which would excite the utmost horror, were the dreariness not relieved by a supertexture of fresh and verdant drapery, and delightful garlands.

The best point of view appears to be with the eye directed towards the shore, having the north-west side in a line with Wittow on the right, and the south-east towards Sassenitz on the left. In the first place rise the sides of the Little Stubbenkammer, perpendicularly dissected, and fissured at the upper end in every direction: it is isolated by a deep chasm to the left, the extremity of which is most worthy of notice: here are six or seven columns irregularly shaped, and evidently bearing the marks of the corroding tooth of time more strongly than the contiguous sides, with which they have formerly been connected.

Between Little Stubbenkammer and the next projection is a considerable chasm in the shore; and in this fissure, concealed from top to bottom by trees close to each other, is the ascent to the summit.

We next meet with an enormous mass of chalk, resembling the lower part of a pyramid: it is justly called the King's Seat, and projects beyond the other sides: to the left, near the great fissure, are two sections, and in the middle is a pyramidal column close to the wall. The whole is of a dirty white, inclining to a yellow and grey shade. To the right of the King's Seat is a niche, which nature has formed into a gigantic portal: it consists of two irregular, or pointed columns, resembling two giants guarding the entrance to the chasm, studded with flints, and about a fathom asunder. From this cavity the chalky sides again appear ascending a certain distance, where they abruptly terminate in a perpendicular precipice. Here the chalk is at an end; and the sloping shore now descends covered with beech-trees. While I was resting myself opposite to Störtebeck's cave, I was astonished at the immense quantity of chalk with which Jasmund abounds, and which, in case of necessity, is sufficient to supply all Germany for centuries, without a possibility of exhausting the grand store; but at present it is totally useless. The chalky surface is covered with a dark-grey vegetable earth mixed with loam, from four to eight feet deep, from which a stately forest of beech-trees loftily raises its head.

Though a traveller may meet with more enormous masses of rock, without feeling the same emotions which he here experiences, the striking contrast, however, of the colourist, will, in general, give the preference and the character of originality to the Stubbenkammer: for here are but three prominent colours; namely, the azure of the sea in the foreground, the lively verdure of the beech-forest, and meadow-land along the declivity; behind which is the dazzling white of the chalky surface, forming with its green projections the elevated back-ground, resembling a garden surrounded by immense white walls.

Respecting the etymology of the name Stubbenkammer, the opinions are too various and improbable to merit our serious attention: for who would attempt to trace a term lost centuries ago, where history is totally silent?

We now proceeded to the great chasm on the other side of the King's Seat, to which we ascended by a steep foot-path, rendered, in some degree, easy to pass by steps being hewn into the solid mass. A storm retarded our progress for a short time; we, however, reached the summit, where all nature appeared clad in her brightest garb. The desire of beholding the prospect from the King's Seat, the highest point of the promontory, now gave wings to our steps.—A narrow path led us to a small open spot, resembling an irregular oval, crowned almost to the margin with trees, at some distance from each other. In the first moments, a certain fear pervades our feelings; and the eye, inca-

pable of comprehending the whole at one view, is either attracted by the prospects of the great chasms, and the Little Stubbenkammer, or the fluted walls to the left, and the dreary declivity of the shore; or it hurries across the azure of the sea.

However grand every object here appeared to be, still, after a mature consideration, the side perspective view of the Little Stubbenkammer, and its adjoining chasm (whose depth and extent are here distinctly ascertained) was to me the most attractive scene; though every thing here is united to form a wild, rich, and bold picture of nature, to which the eye is continually drawn, and the diversity of which prevents all satiation. At the farthermost point of the King's Seat is a small ridge, terminating in a point: from this king Charles XII. is said to have witnessed a naval engagement, a circumstance which is reported to have given rise to the name of the King's Seat.

Respecting its height, it is only about 430 feet above the level of the sea; no very considerable height, if we compare it with other summits of mountains; but in Rügen it certainly is the queen of heights.

Of the ruinous buildings of the Stubbenkammer, I have not been able to select one which I could pronounce to be a true copy. The one which I here give, was taken from the lower parts opposite to the pillars: I can vouch for its correctness.

With regret I now quitted the promontory, and proceeded through the wood, where I unexpectedly met with an ancient wall, usually called the Borg-wall. The awful silence which here prevails, cannot fail to fill the mind of the traveller with melancholy sensations, and naturally leads him to make enquiry as to its origin. Historians and antiquarians have spent much time in endeavouring to trace the object of this monument; and some have even attempted to render the passage in Tacitus's Germania, cap. 40. correspondent with the subject in question; but to me it appears to have been nothing else than the residence of robbers in the wood: this is more probable from its exterior. Nay, it may have been the depository for the treasury of the pirates Störtebecker and Gädike, and received its present name in a subsequent century.

A little higher up are two open stone-graves, almost filled up with withered beech-leaves. To the west is a lake, about 300 feet in breadth, and 400 feet above the level of the sea: it is called the Borgsee, also the Black Sea, on account of the closeness of the trees with which it is surrounded; the water is clear, but has rather a moorish taste. This lake also abounds in fish, and is said to contain haddocks of a great age, whose backs are covered with moss. The greatest height of this wall is the north-west corner, where, in overlooking the extremity of the

forest, the eye is agreeably surprised with the view of Arkona. At the outward extremity of the woody part, the depth is, at least, from 120 to 160 feet; at other parts, from 80 to 100 feet; while in the inside it is only from 20 to 40 feet: and upon the whole, the entire circumference of the Burg-wall comprises 550 paces.

In respect to the forest, its surface is estimated at 3000 acres of land, producing principally beech and oak trees. From the number of persons entitled annually to cut wood here, the forest has been considerably thinned; but a new arrangement on this point has lately taken place, according to which the persons above-mentioned are invited to accept a quantity of turf, in lieu of a certain number of loads of wood.

We now set out on our return, in which our way led us over hills, through woods, corn-fields, &c. We soon arrived at Hoch-Selow, the highest points of the peninsula, from which one of the most delightful views is to the south-west; where the country, appearing laid out in different dimensions, and forming, as it were, rhomboidal figures, almost resembles the chequers of a chess-board. At the verge of the horizon, on the left, appear the steeples of Greifswald, and towards the right, those in Stralsund.

On our arrival at the village called Wesselin, we agreed with a woman of that place to shew us the Offering-stone. After passing two heights, we came to a level spot, in the middle of which was a grey stone: this is the asserted Offering-stone, lying in a direction from south-east to north-west. The mass is granite, sharply pointed towards the north, is from eight to ten feet long, and not quite four in height. In the surface of the sharp part are hewn some small excavations, in which, according to the assurance of our female guide, the clergy are said to have placed the chalices used in offerings.

Towards noon we arrived at Sagard, a market-town situated in a fertile valley, almost in the centre of the country. At a distance its appearance is far more delightful than on approaching it; the houses being small, mean, and mostly covered with straw: the streets are irregular, and not paved, or very badly. At present it contains 112 hearths, and 518 inhabitants, of whom 193 are free people, and 397 vassals.

There is at this place a mineral spring; and in the year 1794, accommodations were made for the guests, the first of whom made their appearance in the following year. Of the virtues of the mineral water, and the cases in which it may be salubrious, I must be silent, as this point can only be determined by a number of experiments and constant use of it. I can only safely give the assurance, that the water is uncommonly clear, and of a

subastringent taste. At the same time, I must admit, that at the watering-places the cure does not always depend alone on the mineral water, but on the novelty of the place, the removal from domestic cares, by daily and variating diversions, on the intercourse with strangers, and the interest of new connections—all of which influencing the mind and body, perhaps tend more to promote a recovery than all the drinking and bathing in the world.

Before I quit this Arcadian land, I must still add a brief geographical sketch of this part of Rügen.—The peninsula of Jasmund lies to the north-east of Rügen, and projects between two gulphs. Its greatest extent is from south-west to north-east; it is between seven and eight miles in length, and about twenty-two in circumference. Respecting the interior of the peninsula, the soil, &c. I have already made a variety of remarks. The plains in the interior and some of the districts adjoining the shore, are extremely fertile; the lower grounds are covered with grass; the hills are partly woody, partly barren, stony or chalky, as is the case with the Stubnitz. The whole population of Jasmund is divided into the two parishes of Sagard and Bobbin: the number of inhabitants amounts to 2,800 (most of whom are vassals); and agriculture, grazing, fishery, and wood, form the principal means of support to the country.

On my returning to Bergen, I had a very dreary road to pass, with a burning sun above, which soon produced the most melancholy sensations within my breast; and to add to my misfortune, I had missed part of my way: at last I gained an open view between the sand-hills, and perceived the Prora before me, which hill I with some difficulty surmounted, and cheered my eye with the prospect of Rügen, and its verdure. The remaining part of the way led through a beautiful landscape; and at noon I reached Bergen, though the distance from Sagard to this town is only nine miles.

LETTER VI.

September 15.

I HASTEN to embrace the first moment to give you an account of a new excursion, which has filled my soul with the most enthusiastic raptures. In the course of this ramble I have witnessed delights which I shall never be able sufficiently to commend; and which, with the exception of Pulitz and the Stubbenkammer, I prefer to all the other beauties of Rügen.

This praise is due to the eastern part of the island, which I have lately perambulated, principally with the view of visiting the

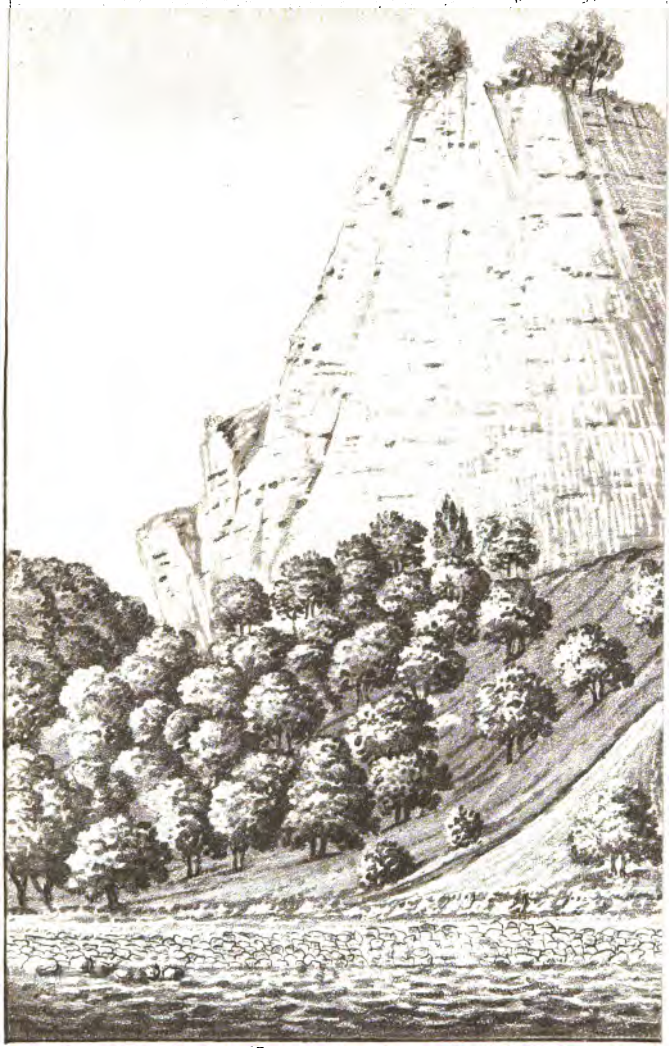
country of Möuchgut: fortunately for me, however, circumstances extended my route.

I set out from Bergen at break of day; and about two miles from the town, my progress was arrested near Silvitz by the first curiosity. Close to the left side of the road, on a gentle ascent, was a stone heap, of an ash-grey colour; it proved to be a stone-bed or Vandal grave, but larger than any I had yet seen. The vast blocks were so joined as to form an oblong cavity, which was closed at the top by a stone six feet in length, and placed in a direction from east to west. By what means this mass has become thus inclosed, is to me a perfect mystery. On mounting the lid, I enjoyed a most beautiful prospect, particularly that of Pulitz, and its fascinating vicinity. From Cirkow, the country gradually ascends, the chains of hills run in a northerly direction towards the Prora; on the east side, to Lanken; and westwardly, to Stresow and Posewald, while charming vallies intersect these acclivities.

I entered one of these vallies, and passed through the villages of Pantow and Seramse. In the environs of the latter is an ancient oak, which is only remarkable for its name, being called by the inhabitants the *Bride's-oak*, because a young girl, whose bridegroom had been killed by lightning while standing under it, hung herself on the same tree. On leaving Seramse, the picturesque appearance of the country is still increased by the corn-fields, orchards, single stone-beds or graves, rural habitations, &c. But from Sullitz to Quisnitz, the scene changes; the road becoming more stony, and a number of steril spots being perceptible, until you approach Lanken, where nature again presents an exuberance of charms.

After partaking of a homely meal at the house of the clergyman here, to whom I had letters of recommendation, I set out in company of a young artist, who, like myself, came hither for the purpose of visiting Möuchgut. Our first walk was directed to a hunting-box, near Lanken, built by a Count Putbus, in 1726; and from the upper story of which we found the prospect on every side new and enchanting, so that it was with some trouble that I could persuade my companion to quit the scene.

As we descended towards the shore, we were surprised at the number and size of the masses of stone which oppose themselves to the sturdy waves: the largest of them serve the sea-dog as a place of repose; which animal frequently repairs hither in spring and autumn to bask itself, when it is surprised by the cautious huntsman. Opposite to us there appeared two stags, but without shewing the least timidity at our presence or shouting: this boldness is owing to their being so little liable to attack; for the house of Putbus having formed the royal chase here for



twenty years, at the stipulated sum of eighty rix-dollars per ann. no person dare shoot a stag under a penalty of ten or twenty rix-dollars: Count Brache, however, has the privilege of hunting them in the forests of Jasmund. In consequence of this regulation, and their great increase, it is natural to suppose that the stag must become a downright torment to the poor husbandman, by treading down the corn in summer, and stripping the willows and other trees of their bark in winter, and frequently eating clean off, in one night, the produce of an entire cabbage-garden; complaints which are frequently laid to their charge.

The Granitz may justly be termed a chain of hills, covered with woods. That part of the forest which belongs to the family of Putbus, covers upwards of 2000 acres of land; its greatest length may probably amount to near five miles, and its breadth to two and a half.

On our return to Lanken, we took a short survey of the surrounding country; and I do not exaggerate, when I maintain, that Lanken is situated in one of the most delightful parts of all Rügen. Notwithstanding it was autumn, still vegetation was fresh and gay, and its colour enlivened by the roseate glance of the declining sun smiling on these grounds; the Granitz hills alone were enveloped in darkness.

At an early hour, on the following morning, we continued our tour to the country of Möuchgut; and, after ascending a very steep hill, we descended towards the shore, which, the artist asserted, always afforded finer prospects than the common road: the truth of this assertion I am at all times ready to admit. We at length reached the Peerd, a promontory forming a semicircle, nearly five miles in extent. It is not very high, still it has its peculiar charms, one of the principal of which is the delightful side perspective view to the right, formed by the beach of Möuchgut, the Granitz, and the chalky cliffs of Jasmund; in short, it is a very appropriate counter-part to the Granitz, Stubbenkammer, and to Arkona. At the same time, this corner affords the best anchorage for vessels; though otherwise, the coast of Möuchgut is equally celebrated for shipwrecks as those of Jasmund, Wittow, and Hiddensée.

As we had entered this part of the country not from the common inland road, we now found ourselves obliged to cross a short steep road to the Hagler. At the top of this acclivity several other hills join, and gradually descend towards the Zakker hills, into a plain, the most extensive, and, perhaps, only one in Möuchgut.

The inhabitants of Möuchgut have different modes of fishing. Flounders and herrings are caught in a large net resembling a bag or purse, to each side of which is attached a long rope, with

small straw-bands wound round it at distinct intervals, and which are shaken during the rowing: the straw is used for the purpose of frightening the fish. This net, of which there is a representation on the engraving of the Hiddensée hut, is likewise employed for catching eels. The herrings are caught in *manschen* or *mansen**. In spite, however, of all the endeavours of the fishermen to take care of their nets, they are sometimes carried away by the power of the water; the sea-dog also does considerable mischief to them in autumn, by devouring the herrings, and adhering to the nets.—In some of the creeks they often fish in the evening in shallow ground by torch-light, with a view of illuminating the surface of the water, and of alluring the inhabitants of the deep by the reflection of the light: this practice is called *Blüsen*. They frequently have with them a small fish-receiver, in the shape of a boat, closed at the top, and perforated on every side: such a vessel floating behind the fishing-boat, is called a *Hüdefass*, or *Drawell*.

From Lobbe we proceeded to visit the Zikkerschen hills, which in shape resemble undulations, and, like their vallies, are mostly cultivated; but towards the shore they assume a more rude appearance. Some views from the beach are enchanting: in short, I must confess, that Möuchgut presents some of the finest sea-prospects in Rügen. One of the hills, called the Schwantegard, is famous on account of the following tradition, which the clergyman communicated to us.—A deep cave is reported to have formerly existed in this part of the shore, under the name of the Nuns'-Cave; because in ancient times nuns resident in the towns, who were sentenced to be immured alive, were occasionally brought hither, and thrown into the cave. At present, not the least vestige is remaining of this once formidable cave; but old people assert, that during the lives of their fathers the aperture had not yet been closed.

The peninsula of Möuchgut is about fourteen miles from Bergen, and forms the extreme point of Rügen to the south-east. The country itself is mountainous, and the form and nature of the hills strongly resemble those in Hiddensée, but are less bare. At the same time, I must candidly confess, that, upon the whole, the beauties of Möuchgut are certainly superior to those of Hiddensée. Though Möuchgut cannot be considered as a very productive corn-country, it has still a number of spots which gratefully repay the labours of the husbandman. The most fertile parts are near the Hagen, and the plain of Lobbe.

This peninsula, a royal domain, is mortgaged to Major von B. for several years to come. The number of inhabitants amounts to upwards of 700, among whom are some free people;

* Nets, resembling those used by the fishermen in the Thames.—Editor.

Cottage near the Lake of Hiddon.

the vassals have, in general, three days to work for their owners; but may be released from this part of their duty on paying a stipulated sum. Some of the inhabitants are pilots: for the ships which sail to Wolgast, Greifswald, or Stralsund, instead of passing through the Gellen, usually go round Rügen, by the way of the Old or New Diep. But as the passage through the straits between Pomerania and Rügen, is equally unsafe, all ships which pursue this track are obliged to take a pilot on board, either from Gören, Lobbe, or Thielsow; and if a ship slip through, the pilot can call the captain to account at the Licentgericht of the place where he is in harbour. The pilotage is settled according to the burden of the vessel, and the distance of the way: it amounts from one to two and four rix-dollars.

Notwithstanding his familiarity with the watery element, the native of Möuchgut is less inclined to go abroad than that of Hiddensée; in short, his little district is his world, to which he invariably returns. The fishery, agriculture, and piloting, afford him a sufficient support. He lives among his brethren and relations, standing in no personal connection with the other part of Rügen: for, in general, the Möuchguters only intermarry with natives of their own island; consequently a certain patriarchal simplicity of character, language, dress, customs, &c. has still retained its originality, which distinguishes them from all the other country people in Rügen.

Fashion has hitherto not had the least influence on these people. The cut and colour of their dress are the same as they were several centuries ago, and still display some monastic vestiges: and so rigidly and scrupulously do they adhere to the conservation of this dress, that, if a girl of Möuchgut would dare to clothe herself like other Rügian girls, only a little in the new style, they would incur the danger of being universally derided, and never get a husband.

The men wear black jackets with black buttons, *at least* two pair of small-clothes, and over these, a pair of wide over-alls made of white linen; but, on solemn occasions, these are black: their stockings are of dark-brown wool, and their shoes mostly fastened with leather strings. The women wear black jackets and petticoats, which are short, and have an infinite number of folds; they have a fine white cap on their head, which is covered by a thick black cap stuffed with wool, of a conic shape, so as to leave but a small stripe visible at the top. It is the head-dress which constitutes the characteristics of married women and girls; the seams of the cap of the former being covered with black, and fastened underneath with a black silk riband; while the riband of the latter must only be of wool.—The females always wear two chemises, one of which is without sleeves, but over this they

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have a finer one with sleeves. When the girls take the sacrament, which is generally once a year, shortly before the harvest commences, they braid their hair, and wind it round their head; they then pass a gold or silver embroidered bandage over it. A widow, in her mourning year, is easily distinguished at church, by her sitting on a small chair opposite to her former seat.—From these few singularities it must appear evident, that the inhabitant of Möuchgut wishes to distinguish himself from the people in the other parts of Rügen.

They are both active and laborious; hence a certain degree of opulence is generally prevalent; at the same time, they cannot be strictly acquitted of interestedness and avarice. The men mostly follow husbandry, or the profitable occupation of fishing; and the herrings which they catch towards the latter end of autumn, and sell either fresh, pickled, or dried, afford them an ample profit.

I shall conclude my remarks on Möuchgut and its inhabitants, with a short description of the ceremonies attending their marriages. Neither man nor woman will here think of matrimony, unless one of them possesses a kath or cottage; and as soon as the parties are agreed, the consent of their ground-landlord is requested.

In the afternoon of the wedding-day, the relations and friends of the bridegroom repair to his house, and, *vice versa*, with the bride, each inviting their friends separately. At last the parties proceed towards the church; and in the church-yard both unite: upon which the bridegroom salutes his bride by pressing her hand. If the bride be a girl from a different village, and have to follow her husband to another quarter, in that case she generally takes a solemn leave of all her relations with tears, as if she were never more to behold her paternal roof. After the ceremony, both sexes separate, and the females retire with the bride to the warm-beer-house, where one of the women presents the bride with some warm beer, and desires her, in a verse, to drink beer with all her friends, and live happily, till they meet in heaven again. The warm beer, plentifully studded with large raisins, now passes round briskly till towards evening, when the discharge of a pistol summons them to the bridegroom's dwelling, where an immense dish of rice constitutes the first course, which is succeeded by a variety of others, during which time the cup-bearer is very actively employed.

The dress of the bride is very little more ornamental than usual, excepting that she wears a wreath on her head, and above it a kind of crown made of twigs of box, with gilt or silver leaves, and that her hair is dressed for the purpose, stiffened, and glossed with the white of eggs. The bridegroom is only distin-

guished by a large white neck-handkerchief, a present from his bride, the corners of which hang down low in front: should he, however, previous to the wedding, have obtained the *jus primæ noctis*, the ends must be tucked in, and concealed. In respect to the defraying the expences attending the wedding, it is customary for both bride and bridegroom to pay a proportion, according to the number invited by each.

In this brief sketch I have given you a faithful characteristic of the country of Möuchgut, its inhabitants, their manners, customs, &c. We now took the road leading to Posewald. Near the Thransberg is a heap of stones piled up, resembling a monument: it is called the Triumphal Pile. The inhabitants of Putbus are reported formerly to have had a severe contest here with those of Möuchgut, in memory of which the victors afterwards raised this pile. A little farther on is the village of Gros-Stresow, celebrated by a battle fought here in 1715, between a small Swedish force under Charles XII. and a Danish army of 18,000 or 20,000 men, under the command of Admiral Sehstädt, in which the former were defeated.

My next ramble was to view the mansion of Putbus, in the environs of Posewald. This edifice has a cheerful and lightsome appearance: its interior is less splendid than I imagined, for though the arrangements in the saloons and apartments are neat, still there is a want of elegance and magnificence in the decorations and furniture. The library contains numerous French works, but few modern German literary productions: it is stated to contain 16,000 volumes. Of more importance are the archives, and the diplomatician might there find many solutions to the difficulties in the history of the country.

LETTER VII.

BERGEN, *September* 20.

THIS time I must, for a change, discourse with you on a subject more *grave* than we have hitherto been accustomed to; namely, I have been visiting the Vandal graves near Krakow: they are four or five in number, concealed among bushes, which renders it difficult to discover them. They are much smaller than the stone-bed at Silvitz, and only one is in complete preservation. I descended through an opening into one, and found the sunken stones in the inside smooth and closely connected, forming a tolerably accurate square, about two feet in width, and the same in breadth; but the bottom was almost choaked up with earth. For want of a spade I could not ascertain their

proper depth, nor whether there might be an urn at the bottom. I afterwards discovered a flat grey stone, from six to eight feet in length, lying in a straight direction: on its smooth surface I perceived a small channel cut lengthways, about two inches in breadth; but towards the middle, the passage was uninterrupted for the space of two hands' breadth. Hence I concluded, that the sacrifices had been slaughtered on this stone, and the rill was provided for the purpose of draining off the blood.

These remains of antiquity, which in every part of Rügen (the small contiguous islands and Möuchgut excepted) are generally denominated Vandal graves, are also called Hünengräber. The word Hüne is Low German, and signifies a giant; hence it might appear that they had been the graves of giants. But where were giants ever found from 30 to 60 feet in length? Some have scarcely the size of a common grave, viz. the stone-beds. How could these have suited the length of a giant? The only fact on which we can rely is, that they must have been funeral places, from the urns and skeletons found underneath. At the same time, the greatest difficulty is, to explain the manner and age in which the tumuli in Wittow, on Patzig heath, &c. &c. have originated: for the stone-beds bear evident marks of a certain degree of culture. I am, however, inclined to deem them relics of the Sclavonio-Vandal times; because the Vandals were occupied in maritime trade, and built vessels.

Harvest being quite concluded, gives me an opportunity of offering a few remarks on the general state of agriculture, and its produce here. They commonly begin to plough the land on the 25th of March, with four horses; but the poorer husbandman often only with two: and oxen are seldom used. Barley and oats, after sowing, are always ploughed in again; but this is not the case with the wheat and rye. The harrows are, in general, of wood; but iron harrows are employed in a stubborn, hard soil. There are certain days on which the husbandman deems it particularly favourable to begin sowing; these are the 10th, 11th, 12th, 19th, and 26th of May; but oats and barley are put later in the ground. They mostly steep the wheat used for sowing in a solution of lime, or a kaline ley, in order to prevent the blight, and to keep the birds off. The harvest commences about the middle of August, and is completed towards the middle of September, unless it is protracted by unfavourable weather.—They begin with the rye, and employ the scythe, the sickle being entirely discarded. After all is collected, they have a harvest fête, in which the lord of the manor, with his family, participates, and to which he contributes a considerable share.

A great quantity of corn is annually exported, particularly to Pomerania and Prussia. The nearest calculation which I have

been able to form of the exportation of grain (after deducting a sufficiency for home consumption) amounts to upwards of 16,000 lasts.

I shall conclude this letter, and my tour through Rügen, with a brief topographical sketch of Bergen, as far as I have had an opportunity of making observations.

This city has three fairs annually, each of which lasts but one day, and is attended by a considerable number of little traders and manufacturers with their goods, which occasions much bustle: they are held at Easter, Whitsuntide, and Michaelmas. On these occasions a considerable quantity of linen and cattle is likewise disposed of.

Bergen, the capital of the country, is situated nearly in the middle of the island, and on a rising ground. Its greatest extent is from east to west. The streets are sloping and bad, the ways partly unpaved, and, in many places, almost impassable; the numerous dirty lanes, and the houses, which are mean, and in general irregularly placed, all contribute to extinguish the idea of a town; though towards the centre of the place, there is some little improvement, but still there is a total want of symmetry and beauty. Singular as it may appear, there is, with the exception of about six edifices, not another stone building in the town, not even excepting the town-house.

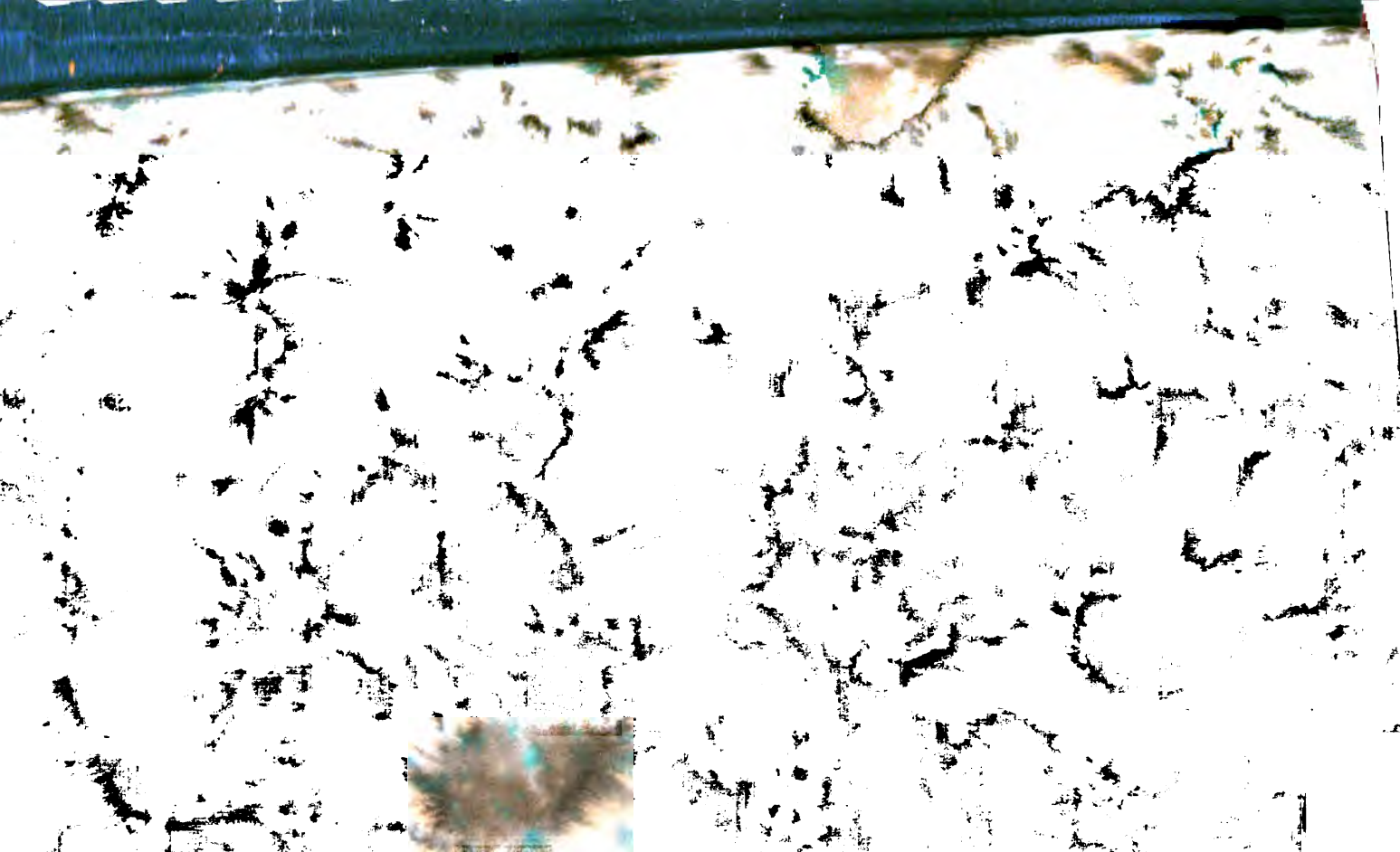
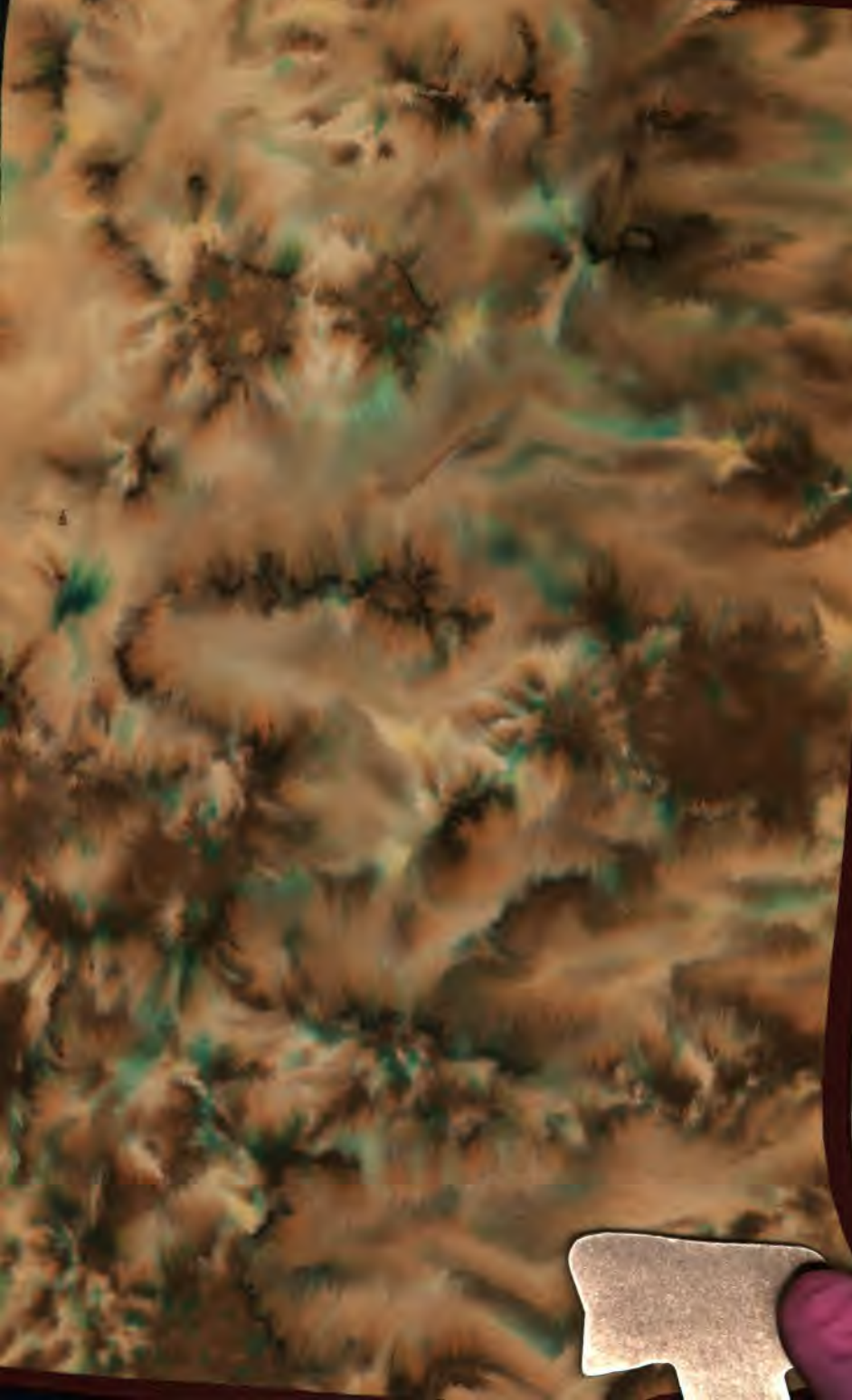
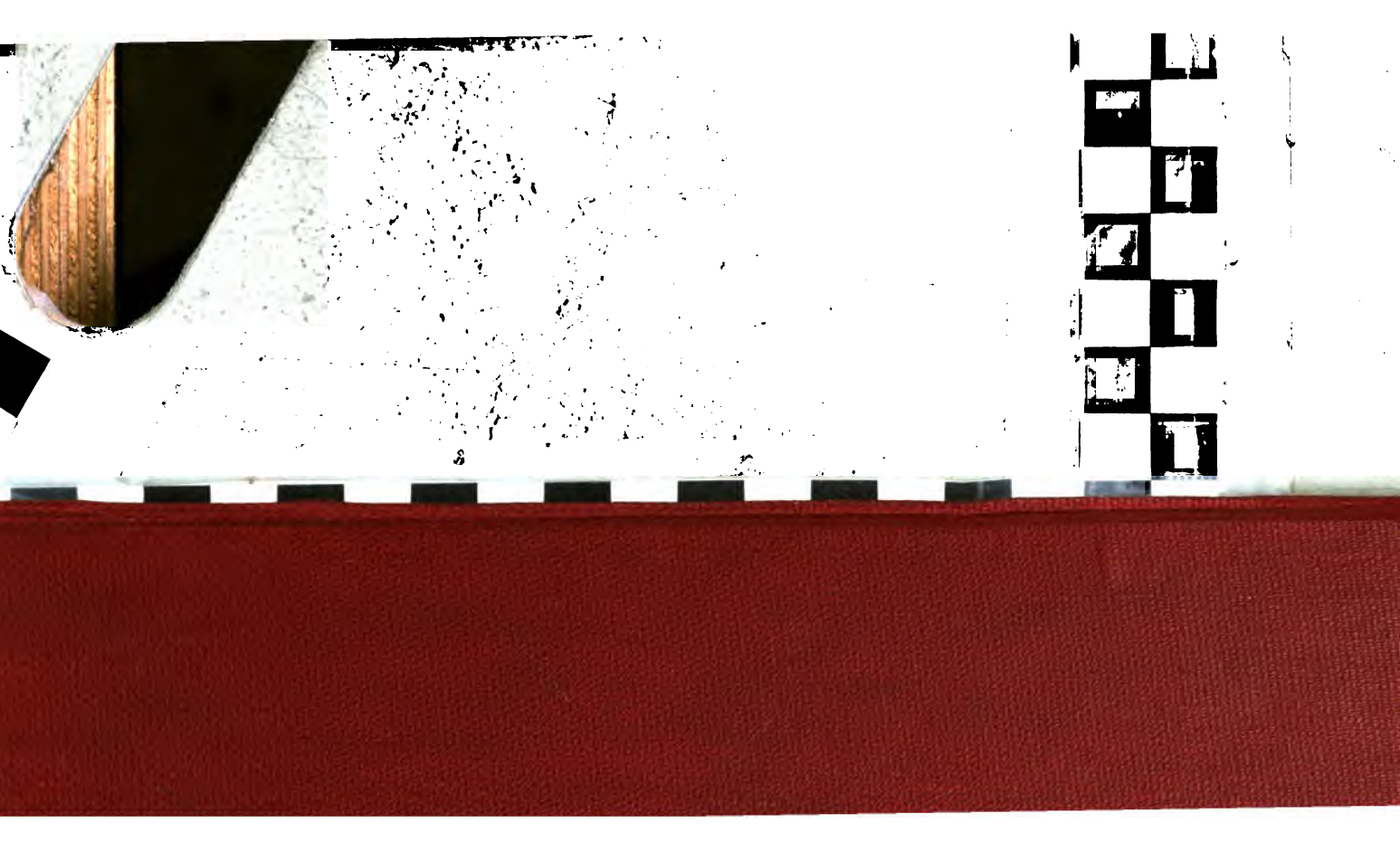
A considerable inconvenience to which the inhabitants are liable, is the want of fountains, in consequence of the height of the place, which renders this establishment difficult. Though in the seven years' war, several Swedish officers of the *Ingenieurs* made attempts to open one in the market-place; but the auger which they employed on the occasion happening to break, the whole business was dropped. Hence, the inhabitants are obliged to procure all their water in the environs of the town.

The population of Bergen amounts to 1574 inhabitants; and the place contains upwards of 300 houses. The town is divided into four quarters, according to which the grounds are rated. In the early part of the 17th century, it received its first charter as a town. The magistracy consists of two burgomasters (one of whom must always be a lawyer and town-judge), two chamberlains, four councilmen, and a secretary: from this court an appeal may be made to the high court at Greifswald.

Most of the inhabitants are tradesmen and husbandmen; the higher classes, which are generally independent, living chiefly in the country. The once prevalent idea of the cheapness here, has induced many people to settle in this town, which has effected a general rise in the necessary articles for life, and thrown a heavy burthen on the shoulders of the poorer classes.

The soil around the city is mostly high and sandy; but in the low lands it is superior, and well adapted to the culture of corn: the hills are planted chiefly with potatoes and culinary plants, which, at a distance, afford a pleasing appearance.

The time now hastened when I was to quit this country. On the 1st of October I accordingly departed from Bergen, and soon arrived at the small town of Garz, containing about 150 mean, close houses, many of which are still covered with straw: it is reported to be the most ancient and only town of German establishment in Rügen, having received its charter in 1377. The number of inhabitants is 1120, mostly tradespeople and husbandmen.

At noon I set off from Garz, and after proceeding a considerable way along the solitary shore, I reached a long narrow isthmus, at the extremity of which is the Glevitz ferry to the opposite village of Stalbrode, to which I was speedily conveyed; and it was with the strongest emotions that I here took leave of that blissful land, where I had lately spent so many happy days.

THE END OF TOUR THROUGH RUGEN.